

**Study in** **SABAH**  
**TÜRKİYE**

30.06.2026



**GUIDE TO ADMISSION TO TURKISH UNIVERSITIES**

As the number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye flourish, people are searching for admission processes. TR-YÖS system, conditions for application, competition in fields such as medicine and engineering, required paperwork are among the most searched topics. Here are ten frequently asked questions by international students seeking to study in Türkiye and their answers.

**TÜRKİYE: WORLD'S NEW EDUCATION DESTINATION**

With its 208 universities, more than 6 million students and growing research infrastructure, Türkiye draws global attention. The university ecosystem from Istanbul to Ankara generates international projects on technology, health and engineering. Hundreds of thousands of international students opt for studying in Türkiye while universities provide a gateway to an international career



**COMPREHENSIVE CAREER OPTIONS**

More than a country offering diplomas, Türkiye is also a place where international students can build their careers. University-industry collaborations, technology parks, rapidly developing tech ecosystem offer international career options to the youth along with education.



**A CENTER OF ATTRACTION**

For students pursuing more than a diploma, Türkiye stands out. Diverse campus life, developing tech ecosystem, affordable living and multi-cultural social environment make Türkiye an essential education hub for the youth.

# Türkiye: Rising brand in education

Türkiye stands out in higher education not just with the number of its universities but also research infrastructure, international student mobility, tech investments and global career options

CEYDA KARAASLAN

The higher education in Türkiye is going beyond a system simply providing diplomas. With hundreds of universities, millions of students, growing research centers and international career options, the country is becoming a regional education hub. In recent years, Türkiye stands out both with the number of international students it hosts and scope and diversity of its higher education. The universities once confined to local students now hosts the youth from around the world. Growing academic capacity, increase in the number of research centers and strengthened international collaboration make Türkiye more visible in the global higher education map.

## 208 UNIVERSITIES IN 81 PROVINCES

According to the 2025-2026 data by Board of Higher Education (YÖK), Türkiye hosts 208 institutions of higher education. Students in the system exceeded 6.3 million while number of academics surpassed 189,000. These figures make Türkiye the host of one of the biggest higher education systems in Europe.

Istanbul leads in the number of universities with more than 50 universities and it is followed by Ankara, İzmir, Antalya, Bursa, Konya, Kocaeli and Eskişehir are among cities with a high concentration of higher education investments.

Experts say this boosts not only education but also urban economies. The universities contribute to technology investments, cultural activities, entrepreneurship activities and international mobility in the cities they are located at.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITIES

Over time, universities in Türkiye evolved into influential brands. Some institutions gain international visibility especially in the fields of engineering, health sciences, social sciences, arts and technology.

In engineering and technology, Middle East Technical University (METU), Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Yıldız Technical University and Gebze Technical University stand out. These institutions are distinguished in terms of projects on artificial intelligence, defense technologies, software and robotics.

In health sciences, Hacettepe University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Ankara University and Ege University stand out. A substantial portion of international students seeking to study medicine choose these institutions.

Koç University, Sabancı University, Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, METU and ITU are among universities with higher recognition in international rankings. QS and THE rankings host a large number of Turkish universities.

## GROWING RESEARCH CENTERS

Turkish universities recently boosted investments in labs, technology parks and research centers. Universities are now not merely institutions of learning but also centers developing technologies and projects. University-industry collaborations particularly in defense industry, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, health technologies and cybersecurity



rose to prominence. Many students have the opportunity to take part in research projects before they complete their studies or can work at technology park firms. Technology zones in Istanbul, Ankara, Kocaeli and Bursa are among centers helping students to be introduced to the sectors in the early years of their studies.

## NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GROW

Türkiye became a major hub for international students in recent years. According to the YÖK data, hundreds of thousands of international students study in Türkiye. Türkiye rose to prominence in terms of attracting international

students recently. Majority of them hail from Central Asia, the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. Lately, number of international students from Europe and Asia-Pacific also increased.

Türkiye Scholarships program is an important factor in rising interest to study in Türkiye. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people apply to study in the country.

## STRONG ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number of academics in Turkish higher education exceeded 189,000. In recent years, number of academics engaged in doctoral studies abroad also increased. Many universities expand

their investments in creating international publications, research projects and employment of foreign academics. Number of academics engaged in international research networks especially in engineering, health sciences and basic sciences is also increasing.

## INTERNATIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For new generation of students, universities are no longer solely an institution to obtain diplomas. Career connections, internship opportunities and international experience influence their criteria to pick universities. Many universities in the country provide edu-

cation opportunities in different countries through Erasmus+, Mevlana and other international exchange programs. In addition, number of dual diploma programs and joint academic projects is increasing.

Students, particularly those studying engineering, software development, aviation, health technologies and business administration have the opportunity of employment after graduation in Europe, the Gulf countries, Central Asia and North America.

## MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts point out that diversity is one of the biggest advantages of Türkiye's higher education. Technology-oriented universities, research universities, health education institutions, universities focusing on arts and international campuses are part of the same ecosystem.

The new generations of students aspire not only for enrolling in a fine program. They also choose universities where they can conduct research, become a part of startup ecosystem, make international connections and engage in social life.

With 208 higher education institutions, millions of students, growing research infrastructure and internationalization goals, Türkiye is fast becoming a global education hub.

## HIGHER EDUCATION FIGURES

- 208 institutions of higher education
- More than 6,3 million students
- More than 189,000 academics
- Over 300,000 international students
- İstanbul: Home to more than 50 universities
- Ankara: Second major university hub of Türkiye
- 26 universities in QS rankings
- More than 100 Turkish universities in THE rankings



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**Türkiye**  
Discover  
the potential

**TURQUALITY**

# A gateway to education to Türkiye from the world

**T**urkish Maarif Foundation offers quality education across the world at all levels from pre-school to university. The foundation aims to raise good people and build bridges of friendship between cultures with its activities in 66 countries.

Türkiye Maarif Foundation (TMV) was founded based upon a law enacted by Turkish Grand National Assembly in 2016, as a non-profit public educational foundation. TMV reaches out to more than 75,000 students with more than 500 schools in 57 countries from Asia and Africa to Europe and Americas, along with two universities, 11 research centers and 17 education centers.

## MAARİF AGENCY: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ENVOY

Maarif Agency, an initiative of Türkiye Maarif Foundation is active across the world. The agency provides guidance services for international students in their application to 208 universities in Türkiye, help them complete admission process and their integration in Türkiye. Additionally, it provides guidance services for universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. Maarif Agency presents best choices of country, city and university for academic careers of students.

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN TÜRKİYE

Türkiye has been a hub of attraction for international students thanks to its rich cultural heritage and quality education. Turkish education system is comprised of 12 years of mandatory education including pre-school, primary school, middle school and high school. After high school, students can opt for higher education institutions which comply with Bologna Process. Türkiye has two types of universities: state universities and foundation (private) universities. The language of education is commonly Turkish although many universities also offer programs in English. Programs including medicine, engineering, law, psychology and architecture are quite popular among international students.

## ADMISSION VIA TR-YÖS EXAM

International students are required to sit International Student Exam (TR-YÖS) for admission to state public universities in Türkiye. Based on their score, they have the opportunity to study in leading universities of the country.

## SERVICES OF MAARİF AGENCY

Maarif Agency provides support to students on various topics, from application process to accommodation in Türkiye. Among types of support is university admission consultancy, summer schools and language courses in Türkiye and abroad, education fairs and introduction



to universities, online applications. Students are also welcomed at airports and provided accommodation. In addition, health insurance, residence permit procedures, GSM line and orientation services for cities are among the services the agency offers. The services ensure a safe and supportive education process in social and cultural terms along with academic orientation.

## WORLD'S CULTURE CAPITAL

Türkiye has a unique location at the intersection of Europe and Asia. Along with its rich cultural heritage and multi-cultural composition, it is not just an education hub but also a venue for cultural discovery for international students. Türkiye hosts about 337,000 international students. The warm approach of hospitable society helps students to adapt to social life swiftly. The country hosts a variety of climates. Verdant mountains of the Black Sea, sunny shores of Aegean and Mediterranean and historical cities of Central Anatolia offer students both natural beauties and a treasure trove of history. Türkiye is also an affordable country with its cost of living and state-supported scholarship programs.

## STUDYING ABROAD

In addition to Türkiye, Maarif Agency offers support to those who seek to

study in Europe, the Balkans, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. It offers education opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctorate programs. Additionally, stu-

dents have access to language courses, summer schools and vocational training programs. After graduation, students are informed about working and residence permits and offered guidance services.

## DIGITAL GUIDANCE AND ADMISSION

Thanks to the digital platforms of Maarif Agency, students have easy access to information about the city, the university and the program they want to study at. They can upload required documents online to start the application process. After obtaining letter of acceptance from the university, the agency coordinates student's process of arrival in the country and accommodation. Thus, they can start their education in a safe and planned way.

## WANT TO STUDY IN TÜRKİYE?

You can find necessary information about all universities in Türkiye on the website of Maarif Agency.

- Choose the city, university and program you want to study at
- Upload required documents to sign up for the university at [www.maarifagency.com](http://www.maarifagency.com)
- Ensure you received letter of acceptance from the university
- We will accompany you when you arrive at Türkiye, at the airport and to the university.
- We will offer guidance about the dormitory you will be accommodated.

The agency's website introduces Turkish universities and offer digital services for pre-enrollment. Students seeking to study in Türkiye can scan the QR code below for the necessary information. You can check out our website and follow our social media accounts for detailed information.





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— İSTANBUL —  
OKAN ÜNİVERSİTESİ

# Studying in Türkiye: More than a diploma

International students are not just picking a university, they are choosing countries where they can build a career. Türkiye offers them both education and a fast-growing career ecosystem

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Obtaining a diploma was the basic goal of international students preferring Türkiye in the past. Things are changing. Next generation of students choose countries where they can pursue internships, create technologies, be included in entrepreneurship networks. This makes Türkiye an attractive location. Turkish companies growing in many fields from defense industry, software to aviation and health technologies are now working closer with the universities. This means a career opportunity for students along with a proper education.

## FROM CAMPUS TO TECHNOLOGY PARK

Number of technology parks and entrepreneurship hubs at Turkish universities rapidly grew in recent years. Many students can take part in projects before completing their studies, can join start-up teams or work at research labs. Engineering, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies are particularly popular. Students are most interested in:

- Artificial intelligence
- Software development
- Cybersecurity
- Aviation technologies
- Health technologies
- Game development
- Digital design

## PRODUCER, NOT CONSUMER

Türkiye's production capacity is also an attraction for international students. Investments particularly in defense industry, unmanned aerial vehicles, automotive technologies and healthcare appear inspiring for the youth. Many students describe Türkiye as a developing country of technology.

## UNIVERSITIES MORE ENGAGED WITH INDUSTRY

Hands-on training models are more widespread now at Turkish universities. Along with acquiring theoretical knowledge, students can join company projects and work alongside sector professionals. Istanbul, Ankara, Bursa and Kocaeli in particular are among cities with high level of collaboration between universities and industries.

## PURSUIT OF A GLOBAL CAREER

New generation of students desire acquiring skills to work in different parts of the world, not just in their own countries. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill before completing their studies, thanks to multi-cultural environments. Students from a diverse array of countries working on the same projects are now a common sight in many campuses.

## NETWORKING

The environment they built is one of the biggest advantages for students according to experts. The Türkiye alumni



can take up important jobs in different countries and keep in touch with each other. The university experience in Türkiye is not just an education process but it also means building a long-term, global network. Türkiye does not just offer classes, labs and diploma to the youth. It also paves the way for their next-generation career stories.

## SOCIAL LIFE INFLUENCES THE CHOICES

Social life is one of the main factors for international students to pick Türkiye for studying. The youth is now opting for cities where they can socialize and feel safe, not just those where they can attend

a fine university. Türkiye provides a vast experience to students in this regard.

Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Eskişehir and Antalya stand out with their lively campus life, cultural activities, vast means of transportation and social diversity. The university students attending classes during the day can attend concerts, festivals, tech and arts events in the evening.

Many campuses have active student clubs. Entrepreneurship communities, software teams, international student clubs, social responsibility groups help students to build a social environment, not just an academic one. Students coming together at the events help boosting cultural interaction.

The Turkish cuisine is also attractive for international students. A wide variety of options from street food to traditional eateries help students to adapt to daily life faster. Cafes, seaside towns, historical districts, student-friendly living spaces help students to socialize more.

Experts say the university experience is more than spending time in the classroom for today's youth. Social environment, cultural experience, urban life and international friends play a role in their choices of education venues. In this regard, Türkiye offers the youth a multi-dimensional campus life in academic and social terms.



## TOP POINTS OF INTEREST FOR STUDENTS

- Post-graduation employment opportunities
- Internship options
- English-language working environment
- Connections with tech companies
- Entrepreneurship incentives
- Working permit processes

## PROMINENT SECTORS OF TÜRKİYE

- Defense industry
- Aviation
- Software and technology
- Health services
- Tourism management
- Construction and architecture
- Digital media



## INSTITUTIONAL AND STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION IN TÜRKİYE-NIGERIA RELATIONS

# A Perspective Oriented on Diaspora and Public Diplomacy



Relations between Türkiye and Nigeria date back to diplomatic and military contacts between the Ottoman Empire and Kanem-Bornu Empire and have a deep-rooted past.

In modern era, opening of Turkish embassy after Nigeria won independence serves a strategic turning point as it was one of the first diplomatic missions of Türkiye in Sub-Saharan Africa. Today, relations went beyond the basis of "good will" and are evolving into the stage of rule-based, sustainable institutional partnership in multi-faceted fields such as defense, economy and education.

This strategic proximity between two countries, became more tangible with signing of nine agreements during a high-level visit to Ankara in January 2026. These agreements covering defense industry, media, higher education and family policies among others cover a comprehensive spectrum and aim to build multi-dimensional collaborations upon bilateral relations. The goal of \$5 billion trade volume on the economic level and the work of Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) indicate that the relations are beyond personal initiatives and are now linked to a technical and institutional follow-up mechanism.

Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) stands out as a central actor in managing human capital and diaspora diplomacy in this new era. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Diaspora Policies signed between Türkiye and Nigeria demonstrates the will of synchronizing the diaspora policies of two countries. As a practical reflection of this institutional cooperation, high-level meeting hosted by YTB President Abdulhadi Turus with the delegation of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission is critically important. At the meeting, Türkiye's deep institutional experience and human-oriented service models on diaspora management were relayed to the Nigerian delegation. The sides discussed joint working opportuni-



ties in diaspora strategies while the Nigerian delegation examined the operational units of YTB and was relayed detailed technical information about the presidency's support mechanism and wide array of its activities.

Elsewhere, Türkiye Scholarships program supervised by YTB grants scholarships to tens of Nigerian youth every year for studying at Turkish universities. This process reinforced with memoranda of understanding signed on education, higher education, is not merely an academic exchange between two countries. It also serves as a long-term and sustainable social contact ground through the alumni networks. This social investment proves that bilateral relations are not defined by economic cooperation and military acquisitions but by human resource capacity building reinforcing institutional trust.

The Turkish Language Program for Public Officials and Academicians (KATİP) by YTB, in the meantime, is an international education and cultural interaction program bringing together diplomats, public officials, academicians and researchers from various countries in Türkiye. During the eight-month program in

Türkiye, participants polish their Turkish communication skills and has a chance of getting to know Türkiye's cultural heritage, public institutions, social structure and daily life. Along with language education, seminars, visits to the institutions, cultural activities and city excursions present participants a multi-layered perspective on Türkiye. The program also contributes to establishment of strong friendships between participants and network of international cooperation. KATİP is an important platform strengthening intercultural dialogue, fostering mutual understanding and providing the ground for future international cooperation.

In conclusion, Türkiye-Nigeria relations are evolving into a model where ties are supported by technological transfers in defense industry and economic goals but the real driving force is soft power elements such as education and diaspora diplomacy. The close dialogue between YTB and Nigerians in Diaspora Commission creates an institutional synergy beyond relations between the states, to maintain regional security and stability in the West Africa.

## From the Stormy Sea To The Hope

I am in the middle of the Black Sea. It is unclear where the horizon starts and ends. The water and the sky are entangled. Waves sometimes lightly touch on my shoulder and sometimes, they gave me a hard smack like they remind me of the past. I imagine myself as a glass bottle with a letter inside. For years, I carried a story. I drifted, without knowing who'd find me or where I would end up. Then I realized that one only grows when one covers a distance. The bottle can turn into a ship without breaking itself. Today, I carry a story along with thousands of sounds, hundreds of memories and countless prayers.

In my childhood, the longest nights would be shorter with my father's stories. His words were as mild as a tale at times and as harsh as a requiem. Everything he has said, at one point, was linked to Türkiye. He has never seen Türkiye. He never set foot on these streets, never heard call to morning prayers in Bursa and never sat down with friends for a chat imbued with the steam of the tea. Still, he would tell about a country he has not seen like he has been a resident for years. Türkiye he talked about was not a country on the map, it was a sense of homeland that eases one's mind.

I didn't know back then what he was doing. Now I realize that he was planting the seeds in my mind with his words. These were the seeds of curiosity. Curiosity in one child's mind is indeed like seed on the soil. Seasons pass, snow falls, wind blow, one grows but that seed quietly takes root. Then, years later, it sprouts in an unexpected moment. Mine sprouted as I was packing my suitcase one day.

I was past the childhood in 2021. My questions were bigger than my toys. I knew who I was but deep down, I wanted to find out where I belonged to, which story I was part of. I left Crimea with a few clothes, silence of my ancestors, prayers of my mother, stories of my father and a fear of loneliness I hid from everyone.

When I set foot in Türkiye, it was not a trip to another country merely, it was like being part of a sentence I have been hearing for years.

I woke up with the first morning call to prayer.

The sound permeating through the window was not strange. It was like the next chapter of prayers I heard during my childhood. I drank my first tea. The steam towering over the slim-waisted glass made the distance shorter. The thick remnants of the Turkish coffee were more than that; they were the prospects of friendships that would last for forty years. Stones, trees, fountains, glances of people along the streets repeated same thing: "You are not alone."

Before arriving in Türkiye, I thought the homeland was where you were born. Later, I found out that the homeland is sometimes a voice that really knows you.

Crimea is a wind-battered peninsula in the middle of the Black Sea. Its history resembles the sea, calm one day, swelling next day. I left the coast of the choppy sea to reach the opposite shore but I didn't leave my past where I left. Crimea was on my shoulder, in my heart on my way to Türkiye. Sometimes, coasts are not connected with bridges but human beings.

Still, I had one bridge: Türkiye Scholarships. Those believing that those scholarships only mean a financial support are not aware what doors they open in their lives. Türkiye Scholarships was beyond a means to study at university for me. It instilled me confidence to stand strong in a new country, it steered my education; it gave me the opportunity to meet people of different cultures under one roof. Türkiye Scholarships has its share in a substantial part of friendships now I have, my academic experience and my courage about the life.

Faith and education are two pillars of my life. One keeps my heart strong and the other one expands my horizon. One reminds why you live for and the other teaches you to read the world better. As I walked through the path between these two pillars, I occasionally had fears. A new country, a new language and new people... But I always heard that voice in the face of the fear:

"Korkma, sönmöz bu şafaklarda yüzen al sancak"  
(Fear not, for the crimson banner rippling in this dawn shall not fade).

This was not only a verse, it was also a will sustained for centuries. Then, I heard another voice from Crimea: "Ant etkenmen millet için ölmege. (I've pledged to die for the nation)". These two voices, from two different places, met in the same heart. One taught me not to stand down and the other taught me to live for a greater purpose.

One only diminishes when he/she lived her own life only. One only grows when he/she works for the future generations. Today, I know that my every step will be a footprint to be remembered for the younger generations to come. I did not carve out this path alone.



I had predecessors. Ismail Gaspirali's words "unity in language, opinion, work" were not a slogan for me, it is the truth to live by. I discovered how the homeland can be preserved in the words of Cengiz Dağcı. I found out that the language is not only a form of speaking but also the last coast of hope.

Therefore, studying Turkish Language and Literature was not simply a choice of education. It was taking over a duty. It was piecing together scattered sentences. I discovered how the pen may change people here. My fears shrunk as I wrote and my voice became clearer. The words fly but when written down, they escape the grasp of time. So, I am not merely speaking any more, I am recording. I discovered how valuable this was when I was introduced to Her Boydan magazine. Having students from different countries on the same literal pages showed me that the world is not as fragmented as I thought it was. I saw my pain in the sentences of a Palestinian friend. I felt the distance does not mean anything in the smile of a student from Africa. My friends from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Syria and the Balkans demonstrated that borders on the maps cannot be placed on the hearts. We were born into different languages but we have the same feelings, yearning, loss, hope and starting over. When the story of one of us was incomplete, another one completed it.

We relieved the burden of each other, sometimes around tea, sometimes in an academic camp and sometimes in conversations going well into next morning. The friendship meant more than words.

Türkiye on the map can be defined as a place size of thousands of square kilometers but for me, the true size of Türkiye is measured through hearts from across the world. I don't see countries on the maps now, I see faces. Every face reminds me someone who touched my life in this journey. Every name is a sentence added to my own story.

Looking back, I see my journey from Crimea to Bursa was not only that. This journey began with a child believing in stories her father told her. It continued with a young girl setting out though she was afraid. It deepened with friendships and acquired a new meaning with the knowledge. Now, it is something I will entrust to future generations.

I feel rich. This is not a wealth accumulated in a bank account. This is memories accumulated in the heart. The most valuable thing this scholarship program gave me was to know that I was not alone. It is an invaluable fortune to sit at the same table with people from around the world, to share the same ideals with them and healing the wounds of each other.

My journey as a little bottle drifting in the middle of the Black Sea is now on a ship with a clear route. This is no longer my story any more. My father's voice, Crimea's wind, mornings of Bursa, prayers of my friends and works of my tutors. They left marks on everything I carry now. I am not writing my story, I am trying to leave something to future generations.

Some harbors do not merely mean a new shore. They are places where you rediscover yourself, your roots and the meaning you carry with you. I am at that harbor and it is Türkiye. Türkiye Scholarships which guided me through this journey showed that the education is not only acquiring new knowledge but also reestablishing yourself and the world. The education is the path and hope is the essence of the journey.

URİE SEITUMEROVA



# Istanbul Aydın University

## Right location for jobs of the future



Istanbul Aydın University offers comprehensive education programs aligned with the needs of the times and the jobs of the future. The university pioneering education in strategically important fields, including medicine, dentistry, aerospace studies, software and IT, is committed to a vision of training qualified graduates with strong scientific skills and a passion for research.

Operating under the motto of "For A Bright Future," Istanbul Aydın University (IAU) is a higher education institution instilling its students with an entrepreneurial and creative spirit in line with needs of 21st century, through its experienced academic staff recognized for their scientific contributions both nationally and internationally and with its campus in the heart of Istanbul. The university offers education for more than 20 years at its 17 faculties and vocational school and achieved a nearly 90% employment rate among its alumni.

Istanbul Aydın University was founded in 2003 with the purpose of training qualified professionals sought after nationally and internationally and made a name for itself with its accomplishments in numerous fields. It helped more than 100,000 graduates enter the workforce after graduating from its more than 190 postgraduate programs, 187 undergraduate programs and hosts 52,000 students including more than 12,000 international students. It is one of Türkiye's biggest foundation universities and employs 3,000 academic and administrative staff.

### INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Istanbul Aydın University's motto is

### SOFTWARE ENGINEERING: ARCHITECTS OF A DIGITAL WORLD

Department of Software Engineering trains solution-oriented, creative software developers in line with needs of the digital age. A solid theoretical background is supported by modern labs, software development environments and real-world projects. Students play an active role in projects developed in collaboration with sectoral businesses and make their foray into professional world before their graduation, through seminars, workshops and internship opportunities.

The program goes beyond algorithms and coding and equips students with strategic thinking, communication skills and skills to develop solutions exclusive to the sector and makes a difference in the sector with its alumni with a globally competitive edge.



"For A Bright Future." It is a genuine urban university with its campus at the center of Istanbul and stands out with its academically accomplished faculty with scientific proficiency and student-oriented education approach.

In Webometrics 2024 rankings, the university is ranked 36th among 208 universities in Türkiye and 8th among foundation universities. In UI GreenMetric World Universities rankings, it is ranked 270th among 1,745 universities in the world while it maintained 34th place in the same rankings for Turkish

### ENGINEERS OF TECH SHAPING THE FUTURE

Particularly through its Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering, the university aims to train experts with high technological expertise in digital age. With an education approach focused on research, application and innovation, the university prepares its students for the future, raising them as individuals equipped with knowledge in the fields of artificial intelligence and data science. Qualified engineers who will contribute to Türkiye's digital transformation are educated by Istanbul Aydın University.

universities and 6th among foundation universities in Türkiye.

The university also made it to 501-600 rankings at the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings while holding 14th place among Turkish universities and 9th place among Turkish foundation universities in the same list. Additionally, it had a major accomplishment in THE's world university rankings by securing the 636th position.

### MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics provides a research-oriented education in the fast-developing world of science of genetics and is a strong starting point for students pursuing a career in the fields of healthcare, biotechnology and scientific innovation.

### PHARMACISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Pharmacy makes a difference in healthcare with its modern labs, strong academic staff and application-oriented education, training innovative pharmacists committed to ethical values.

### LEADING IN TECHNOLOGY

IAU's patented innovations, artificial intelligence projects and successful startups are supported by its incubation center while ElektroAydın, Cumhuriyet Rocket Team, Starsat7A and Starsat7B technology teams made their marks in their respective fields. The university made a name for itself with numerous patents and medals.

### GLOBAL EDUCATION, GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

The university has a prestigious place among world universities with its commitment to international education standards, advanced technological infrastructure and an approach centered on innovation.

Its education ecosystem is supported by 203 laboratories and 37 research centers, offering students integration of hands-on training and theoretical knowledge while providing students with extensive practical experience in many fields, particularly medicine and dentistry.

### LEADING IN HANDS-ON TRAINING

IAU aims to raise qualified individuals creating value in the professional life, individuals who can meet the expectations of the global business world, can efficiently use their knowledge and skills and retain an innovative mindset. To that extent, it regularly brings students together with its premium solution partners. Since 2004, it sets a primary example of university-industry collaboration by sending its students to companies in relevant sectors one day a week for hands-on training.

### A SAFE FLIGHT

The university's avionic program raises experts who take part in all processes of electrical and electronic systems, from design to maintenance. Advanced labs, hands-on training model and a structure integrated with the sector prepare graduates for a strong career in civil and military aviation.

### DENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Dentistry trains dentists highly proficient in their vocation through its clinics furnished with high technology, a strong academic staff and an education model based on hands-on training. The education is based on clinical experience, digital dentistry practices and one-on-one mentorship and provides a well-equipped educational environment for those seeking to specialize in healthcare.

### EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

Istanbul Aydın University provides a social environment for its students, to address their social, cultural and sports needs. It was chosen as the best university in Europe by the European University Sports Association (EUSA) and won 116 championship titles in European and Turkish championships, including 12 European championships, as well as 430 medals and 218 trophies in addition to numerous accomplishments.

### IAU FACULTY OF MEDICINE: GUIDED BY HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Faculty of Medicine combines modern health science with technology, offering a strong educational opportunity. Students develop their clinical skills at high-tech laboratories and simulation centers and can earn hands-on experience at hospitals starting from the initial stage of their education. Being a physician means improving people's quality of life and serving them directly. The university provides not only knowledge but also skills of critical thinking, questioning and lifelong learning for students. Interdisciplinary academic staff and interdisciplinary research opportunities train students both as physicians of today and future. If you are willing to have an impact on the lives of others and pursue the path of science, you should join this journey.

### A SKY-HIGH CAREER: PILOTAGE

Flying does not have to be merely a dream for you as Pilotage Department of the university opens the doors for a career in the skies. It offers an educational model where theoretical knowledge is backed by high-technology simulations and sectoral developments are followed through projects and collaborations. Modern classrooms, simulation systems and an application-oriented curriculum help students make a difference while learning. Graduates can pursue a career in many venues, from commercial airlines to air ambulances, business jets, cargo delivery and flight schools after completing a preparatory program in English and a 4-year comprehensive education program in compliance with standards of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM) and EASA. The Department also offers international exchange programs and internship opportunities for students to gain global experience and develop an international perspective in their career, along with polishing their professional skills.

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# YOUR FUTURE CHOICES



# Discover Türkiye

Türkiye's geographical location has advantages for students. It is located in a unique point where Asia and Europe meet and you can fly into many countries in less than four hours

CEYDA KARAASLAN

One of the main determinants in Türkiye's social, economic, cultural and political life is its location in the world. It is located at a place where Asian and European continents meet, a peerless feature. Türkiye is at the intersection of the Balkans, Caucasia, Middle East and Mediterranean basins. Thanks to its location, you can fly following countries in less than four hours from Istanbul: Finland, Morocco, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia, Turkmenistan and United Kingdom. Turkish Airlines (THY) is among the companies with highest number of direct flights to many destinations the world over.

Türkiye is a big country in terms of size, indeed, biggest in the entire European continent. The distance between country's eastern and western tips exceeds 2,000 kilometers. Anatolian and Thracian lands come closer to each other in Çanakkale straits and Bosphorus. Two continents are connected with each other by



land with three bridges in Istanbul. If you are good swimmer, you may cover this connection for a unique experience in annual intercontinental swimming race organized by Türkiye's National Olympics Committee.

#### A MATCHLESS NATURE

Türkiye is a peninsula surrounded by seas in the north, west and south. Elsewhere, Türkiye is usually mountainous, with an average altitude of 1,132 meters. In addition, Türkiye is home to countless rivers and lakes. Lake Van as big as a landlocked sea, longest river Kızılırmak and ancient rivers Fırat (Euphrates)



and Dicle (Tigris) are among them. Every year, millions of local and foreign tourists visit Türkiye to see the natural wonders.

#### FOUR SEASONS, SIMULTANEOUSLY

As a result of its geographical location and its distinctive features, Türkiye is home to different climates. The country is surrounded

by seas on three sides and is largely mountainous or has uneven terrain. Climate differences between landlocked regions and coastal regions are immense. Mediterranean climate prevails in the western and southern coastal regions, with quite low precipitation in winter. Landlocked, inner regions at higher altitude have rather harsh winters compared to other Mediterranean countries.

#### STUDENT-FRIENDLY DISHES

- ◆ **DÖNER:** Meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie is a common sight in windows of many kebab restaurants in cities. This Turkish specialty called döner is a type of fast food for students with the option of having it stuffed into a half-cut bread.
- ◆ **MANTI:** Manti is a type of dumplings similar to the ones in cuisines of other countries and is basically pieces of dumplings containing minced meat. It is usually served with tomato paste and yoghurt.
- ◆ **SOUP:** Türkiye has soups made of almost anything edible. Ingredients are usually for vegetarian taste and soups contain high amount of water mixed with diverse vegetables and pulses.

Some soups contain meat. They are ideal for consumption for a light lunch or dinner.

- ◆ **KURU FASULYE (DRIED BEANS) AND PİLAV:** Kuru fasulye (dried beans) and pilav (a rice dish) is a staple of lunches at university canteens and restaurants offering traditional food. Pilav is made of rice or bulgur and is often served with stews. Nutritional value of dried beans rumored to increase when consumed with pilav.
- ◆ **BÖREK, TURNOVER, POĞAÇA (PASTRY):** Pastries are basic food that will spare you from food preparation trouble at breakfast and are good as daytime snacks. You may find a wide variety of pastries at canteens, bakery shops and some restaurants.

#### TURKISH PROFICIENCY

EDUCATION language in some universities is English but in most of them, it is Turkish. Turkish proficiency is a requirement for admission to most academic programs but you may still be admitted to universities without basic knowledge of Turkish. In most universities, Turkish language preparatory classes are offered to international students once they are admitted to undergraduate or postgraduate programs. For a reasonable price and in some cases for free, you can have access to language lessons on various levels, usually 4 to 6 hours a day. Preparatory classes conclude with an exam testing language proficiency that helps you to be eligible for your studies. Make sure to check if your school offers complementary Turkish language classes in addition to preparatory classes.

Students eligible for Türkiye Scholarships which include monthly allowances, tuition fees, dormitory fees and healthcare insurance are offered free Turkish language classes for one academic year. Students receive C1 level Turkish proficiency certificate if they complete those classes and proceed with their regular university studies. Those who failed have the option of sitting another exam and additional time to study until the next academic year.

Separately, you can apply to Yunus Emre Institute (YEE) for learning Turkish before you start your studies and even before arriving in Türkiye. YEE, which aims to promote Turkish culture and arts and language around the world operates in 46 countries with 58 centers.

Once you arrived in Türkiye, you can apply to Turkish Application and Research Center (TÖMER) which is available in most public universities, to learn Turkish. You can sign in for Turkish classes in TÖMER branches in several cities to learn Turkish on Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

#### CANTEENS

MOST universities have canteens offering two or three meals. Subsidized by the state, meal prices are very reasonable and they are offered as fixed menu or a la carte. In most universities, commissaries, restaurants and cafes are available outside canteens. Don't miss following meals if they are available in the menu:

- ◆ Karniyarık (stuffed eggplant)
- ◆ İmambayıldı (a variation in karniyarık)
- ◆ Tas kebabı (meat stew)
- ◆ Yaprak sarma (stuffed leaves)
- ◆ Kebab
- ◆ Baklava
- ◆ Kazandibi (caramelized milk pudding)

#### A WORLD-FAMOUS CUISINE

DAILY life in Turkish society is shaped around meals and lengthy dinners. The kitchen is at the center of the household. Even in big cities, families usually prefer having dinners together and at home. Dinner tables are not rearranged immediately after dinners and hosts and guests engage in lengthy conversations or listen to music. Turkish cuisine has a global reputation thanks to its rich ingredients and labor-intensive dishes. You may sample these unique dishes in restaurants or houses you visit as guest. Cooking at home is very common. You may purchase fresh food for your meals from greengrocers, supermarkets or open marketplaces open at certain days of the week. Although eating at home is common, you have plenty of options for eating out, from traditional dishes to simple sandwiches. Restaurants and cafes offering meat, chicken dishes and seafood, vegetarian options are readily available in all big cities.

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# BAU: Shared choice of international students

BAU Global member Bahçeşehir University (BAU) tops the list of students in Türkiye and across the world with its academic accomplishments, education models integrated with technology, physical infrastructure, international collaborations and opportunities it offer



**B**ahçeşehir University, whose Board of Trustees is chaired by Enver Yücel, was founded in 1998 as a non-profit, foundation university in Istanbul, at the intersection of Europe and Asia. The university hosts 10 faculties, a graduate school, conservatory, school of applied disciplines and vocational school of health services. Together with medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, conservatory and law programs, it offers 58 undergraduate programs. Additionally, BAU is home to 31 research centers and 92 student clubs.

The university currently has 30,000 students and more than 7,000 among them are international students. Interviewed students usually link their preference for BAU to university's location at the heart of Istanbul and its international power, as well as being "more than a university with its integration with business world, technology and innovation."

## SCHOLARSHIP VIA APPLY BAU

Apply BAU, implemented in world's leading university, was introduced in Türkiye by BAU for the first time. The admission system offers scholarship to many accomplished students regardless of their exam scores.

## PREPARE FOR BUSINESS LIFE WITH COOP

COOP Education Model of Bahçeşehir University prepares students to business life. The model based on "my campus, my workplace" motto, brings together the university and the business world. BAU introduced the model to Türkiye in 2008, to help students meet the companies and eventually, more than 11,000 students were placed in business experience programs. Students both accumulate experience and have the opportunity of employment proposals by companies. Branded Course, an education model exclusively employed in BAU, involves partner companies to create their own content for the courses and introduce their sectors and applications to students. A total of 30,173 students benefited from

this program which takes university-private sector collaboration to the classroom under the supervision of academics.

## BAU HUB: GUIDING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Through BAU Hub, Biz Lab, BUG Lab, Hub Incubation Center and Hub Belgium programs, Bahçeşehir University facilitates the efforts of young entrepreneurs with its guidance. The Hub mentors entrepreneurs for securing financial support from various organizations, from the UN, EU to TÜBİTAK and KOSGEB. Hub Belgium, a part of BAU Hub Incubation Center, provides support for companies seeking expansion in Europe. BAU Tekmer integrated with BAU Hub, offers services to the youth in gaming and IT sectors.

## RECOGNITION THROUGH ACHIEVEMENTS

Bahçeşehir University ranks 59th globally according to Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025 by world's most prestigious higher education ratings institution. In THE's 2026 rankings based on fields, it ranked first among Turkish foundation universities in educational sciences. BAU also ranked third in arts and humanities, fourth in engineering and fifth in social sciences.

The university is also recipient of multiple awards on "export in education" by Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TIM) and was awarded in 2025 in service exports by Turquality support program which marks its 20th year in supporting Turkish brands' international competition.

## GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK

Bahçeşehir University is distinguished among others by offering exclusive opportunities to students to study in many countries, in addition to exchange programs for global education. It offers education at institutions which are members of BAU Global in Berlin, Washington D.C., Georgia's Batumi and Gime (Kyrenia) of Northern Cyprus.

Students have access to a comprehensive English program with Mentora College in Washington D.C. as part of BAU Global. Additionally, through Dual Up system, they can have double degrees by studying one year in Germany, via programs at Berlin International University of Applied Science which offers equivalence.

Bay Atlantic University in Washington D.C., another member of BAU Global network, offers undergraduate and postgraduate (MBA) education for students from all across the world, along with online certificate programs. Students who completed their third year in BAU undergraduate programs can also have access to education at Kansas University School of Law, with the option of having a diploma from Türkiye and a postgraduate diploma from the United States. After completing law courses in the United States, students are eligible to sit bar exams in the states of New York, California, Washington, Georgia and Wisconsin.

## BAU CAMPUS: INNOVATION AND PRODUCTION HUB

BAU Campus introduced this year within university's compound, serves students and Istanbul with its academy-private sector integration, AI-integrated education, multidisciplinary labs, venues for culture and arts, a congress center hosting experts of their fields from around the world, interactive learning infrastructure, specialization programs for career support and international collaborations. The Campus hosts a modern library, high-tech classrooms, labs for engineering sciences, from electricity, control and automation, civil engineering, antennae and communications, power electronics, robotics, chemistry, genetics, smart energy management systems, along with labs under Advance Sciences and Medical Engineering, including physics, nanooptics, cell, movement analysis and biomedical engineering labs.

## BAU, A CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF ISTANBUL

BAU Global President Enver Yücel: Next-gen universities should be transformed for the future world

**ENVER YÜCEL**, president of BAU Global and chair of Bahçeşehir University Board of Trustees offer insights in many fields, from education approach and technology's integration, from internationalization to jobs of the future. Yücel highlights the education is among significant determining factors for future of societies, adding that Bahçeşehir University located at the heart of Istanbul is more than a university with the opportunities it presented, its collaboration, a strong understanding of education for local and international students.

Yücel says project-based and application-oriented approach gained importance in education and they were aiming to raise students as individuals with self-confidence, capable of teamwork and with leadership skills. He pointed out that the knowledge was transforming fast in the new era. "We cannot process today with the past knowledge. Universities should be venues not merely relaying knowledge but rather, venues where the knowledge is converted into application."

He said they held lengthy consultations with academics and members of the business world in the process leading to foundation of Bahçeşehir University, a member of BAU Global network, and the university's basic vision has been "an international university offering application." "We are building the universities of tomorrow," he said, adding that the technology played a transformative

role in education. He noted that the technology was essential for equal opportunities, adding that they launched remote education programs years ago and AI-supported systems were now serving as digital assistants for students.

On international collaborations of Bahçeşehir University, Yücel said they had agreements with about 150 universities and the students can study in several countries, giving examples of Bay Atlantic University in the United States, Berlin International University in Germany and BAU International University in Georgia which became part of their global education network.

## ISTANBUL AS A UNIVERSITY

Yücel says Istanbul's multi-cultural life contributed greatly to the university. He stated that the university had students from some 140 countries, adding that almost every one in five students were foreign nationals at the university which hosts about 30,000 students. "Istanbul itself is a university," Yücel says.

He noted that Bahçeşehir University stood out among preference of international students.

Yücel advises the youth to adhere to lifelong learning, pointing out that one occupation would not be sustainable for them in the future. He recommends students to deepen their knowledge in their fields of interest and highlights the need to redesign the curriculum based on changing living conditions.



## 'A bridge to the world in AI education'

**ABDULLAHI BALA MOHAMMED – (STUDENT AT BAU FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING):** "There are many options around the world but what attracted me to BAU most was university's high ranking. Studying in Istanbul, a fascinating city with an ancient history is a unique experience itself. Quality of education here is epic; lively campus life and vibe of the city makes this process all the more meaningful. I put all the technical experience I had throughout my education into practice with my senior project. This process was very valuable in terms of translating what we learned at the class into the real world. With its Erasmus and exchange programs, BAU presents students a vision of the world. I recommend BAU to students from my country because this is a bridge that will connect them to the world. A very easy process of choice and enrollment is a plus too."

# More Than a University

- BAU CAMPUS : AT THE HEART OF İSTANBUL
- COLLABORATION WITH 360 UNIVERSITIES IN 60 COUNTRIES
- DUAL-UP : DUAL DEGREE IN TWO COUNTRIES
- INTERNSHIP IN 3200 PARTNER BRANDS THROUGH CO-OP
- NEXT - GENERATION LABS AND CENTERS
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# Q & A on admission to Turkish universities

Number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye is growing every year but how can you apply to Turkish universities? What is TR-YÖS? Which documents are required? How can you enroll in programs like engineering and medicine? Here are the questions and answers



CEYDA KARAASLAN

Türkiye is now home to more than 350,000 international students. The youth from across the world, from Africa and the Balkans to Central Asia and Europe choose Türkiye for education. However, university application system may appear complicated at first for most candidates. Türkiye carried out significant changes in international student admission processes in recent years and Türkiye International Student

## FIVE STEPS OF THE ADMISSION

- 1-Sit TR-YÖS or other required exams
- 2-Check out the universities
- 3-Prepare the paperwork
- 4-Apply online
- 5-Complete registration and visa processes after admission

## PROPER STRATEGY

International student admission system became more professional and central according to the experts. Nevertheless, preparing for the exam alone is not sufficient for a successful application.

### Students should:

- check out the university thoroughly
  - check out the quotas regularly
  - manage paperwork processes correctly
  - have a good planning on the language they want to study at and the city they prefer to study at
- Along with a campus, candidates seeking to study in Türkiye apply for a multi-cultural student life, good academic opportunities and opportunities for pursuing a global career.

Admission Exam (TR-YÖS) is playing a central role in international student applications. Here is all you need to know to apply to study in Türkiye:

### 1- WHAT IS TR-YÖS?

TR-YÖS or Türkiye International Student Admission Exam (TR-YÖS), is a central exam for international students seeking to study at Türkiye's higher education institutions and is conducted by Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM). The exam is one of the important assessment tools in international student admission processes. Today, many state-run universities base their admissions on the score students achieve at TR-YÖS. The exam is held in different languages including Turkish, English and Arabic.

### 2- WHO CAN APPLY?

Students of foreign nationalities, students with Blue Card and students who completed their high school studies in their entirety abroad can apply.

Due to recent regulations, certain students of foreign nationality who attended high school in Türkiye are required to sit YKS or university exam for Turkish students. Experts advise candidates to check their citizenship and high school graduation status before applying to TR-YÖS.

### 3- HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Applications can be made online. Candidates can complete application process by uploading their passport information, personal information, photos, contact information to the official website of ÖSYM. The exam is held twice a

year. Applications for this year's second exam will be open between July 9 and August 3 while candidates who missed those dates can apply between August 7 and August 11. The exam will be held on October 11, 2026.

### 4- CAN ANYONE PASSING THE EXAM GET ENROLLED?

No. TR-YÖS scores do not necessarily secure enrollment to any university. After obtaining exam results, candidates separately apply to the university of their choice. The university assess the application based on its own quota and its admission criteria. For this reason, it is essential to check university's conditions of application beforehand.

### 5- DO ALL UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT TR-YÖS SCORE?

Majority of state-run universities accept TR-YÖS scores but some foundation (private) universities may require different assessment criteria. Some institutions may ask for grade of (high school) diploma, international exam score or an additional interview. Therefore, it is crucial for candidates to search for further information at universities' international student offices.

### 6- IS THE EXAM SCORE ALONE IS IMPORTANT?

Not always. Some universities can ask for additional requirements such as high school diploma score, national exam score, international exam documents and letter of recommendation. Candidates' academic background may

matter more especially for programs more popular among applicants.

### 7- ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION TO MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY MORE DIFFICULT?

Yes. Competition is quite high in applications to health programs such as medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. Some universities accept only very high TR-YÖS scores in application to these programs. Thousands of people apply for these programs despite limited quota. According to the experts, success rankings in the fields related to health are increasing every year. Most competitive programs are medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, software engineering and aviation.

### 8- WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION?

Documents may vary for each university but they generally ask for:

- Passport
- High school diploma
- Academic transcript
- Official document of TR-YÖS score
- Photos
- Identity or citizenship documents
- Additional documents for some programs

Most documents may be required to be certified by a notary or an official translator. Therefore, candidates are advised to launch documentation process early.

### 9-WHEN TO APPLY?

Universities usually launch application period in the summer but each uni-

versity may have a different timetable. So, it is advised to regularly check universities' official websites. Some universities may also open additional placement windows and introduce additional quotas.

### 10- WHAT CAN STUDENTS WHOSE APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED EXPECT?

Students approved for admissions go through the following processes:

- official, final enrolment
- student visa
- residence permit procedures
- health insurance
- accommodation

International student offices of most universities offer guidance in these processes. Orientation programs at campuses facilitate students' adaptation to Türkiye. Consultancy services of universities are crucial especially for students leaving their country for the first time to study abroad.

## FEATURES OF TR-YÖS

TR-YÖS measures not only the knowledge but also applicants' skills in mathematics, problem solving and analytical skills. Candidates are asked 80 questions they have to solve in 100 minutes. Every four wrong answers deduct one correct answer from the overall score. TR-YÖS scores are calculated on a standardized system. Scores usually range between 100 and 500 points.

## HOW MANY POINTS ARE REQUIRED?

- 250-300 points: May apply to many programs
- 300-400 points: An advantage in admission to prominent state-run universities
- 400 points and more: A higher chance for admission to medicine and dentistry programs



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# Studying in Türkiye: More than a campus

The youth opt for countries offering more than a diploma, countries where they can build a career, socialize and make a gateway to other countries. Türkiye stands out for students due to vast opportunities from education and tech to social life and cultural diversity

CEYDA KARAASLAN

International student mobility in the world is growing. However, students' criteria changed. Enrolling in a fine university was sufficient in the past. Today, prospective students seek more than education quality, such as social life, a good technology ecosystem, career opportunities, lower cost of living and post-graduation opportunities. This change in criteria boosted prominence of Türkiye in recent years. Türkiye is an attractive hub for international students with its young population, developing university infrastructure, diverse campus life and fast-growing technology investments. Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya and Eskişehir draw students not only for education but also social and cultural life.

## STRATEGIC LOCATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

One of the biggest advantages of Türkiye is its location. A bridge between Europe and Asia, Türkiye offers students proximity to different cultures. The European capitals, the Middle Eastern countries, the Balkans, Caucasus and North Africa are only a few hours away via air travel. Students view it as an advantage especially for international careers.

For many students, Türkiye is not merely a location for education but also a regional hub. The youth studying in Türkiye can connect with people from different countries and build up career networking while studying.



## DIVERSE CAMPUS LIFE

The campus life at Turkish universities underwent a major transformation in recent years. The universities are now more than venues where people study. They evolved into the centers of social life and campuses host hundreds of different student clubs.

Tech communities, entrepreneurship hubs, social responsibility teams, sports clubs, arts communities, international student unions help socialization of the youth.

Throughout the year, many universities host concerts, festivals, career summits, hackathons, entrepreneurship contests and cultural events. These activities especially help international students to adapt to Türkiye faster. Students from different countries taking part in the same projects are now common sight at campuses.

## INCREASING AFFORDABILITY

Another advantage of Türkiye is affordability of the education and lower cost of living compared to other countries. Compared to big cities in Europe

and North America, accommodation, transportation and similar costs as well as meals are quite affordable. Education expenses particularly at state-run universities are far lower compared to many countries. Students also benefit from cheaper transportation tickets, social facilities, dormitories and in-campus services. These advantages play a major role in choosing Türkiye to study for students particularly from Africa, Central Asia, the Balkans and the Middle East, according to experts.

## MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Hundreds of thousands of international students studying in Türkiye mean meeting of diverse cultures in the same campuses. Students from several countries study in the same classroom, take part in the same projects and get together at social events. This helps them socialize better. In today's business world, intercultural communication skills matter. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill long before their graduation.

International students often high-

light warm attitude of Turkish people and their hospitality. Friendships built at campuses last beyond graduation.

## MODERN RESEARCH CENTERS

Number of research labs, applied education centers and technology park investments significantly increased in Türkiye in recent years. Universities support students not only with theoretical knowledge but also applicable projects.

The country hosts important research centers particularly on engineering, health sciences, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies.

Many students work at research labs before graduation or they can take part in projects jointly developed with technology companies. Some universities offer a spot in start-up teams for students. Thus, the youth can have access to sectoral experience.

## DEVELOPING TECH ECOSYSTEM

Growth in defense industry, artificial intelligence, game development, software and health technologies make Türkiye more attractive for the youth. Increasing collaboration between universities and private sector influence students' career plans. Technology parks especially in Istanbul and Ankara host young entrepreneurs working alongside students in the same ecosystem. Many students have the opportunity of pre-graduation internship at technology firms or working on project development. Experts say new generation of students pursue developing projects and launching startups instead of solely focusing on finding jobs. Growing tech investments in Türkiye supports this expectation.

## MODERN LIFE MEETS HISTORY

One of distinctions of Türkiye is coexistence of historical heritage and modern living. Students can live world's most important historic cities while studying at modern campuses.

Istanbul in particular stands out for students. Historical buildings, museums,

art centers, concert venues, cafes, technology centers and campuses are part of the same city life. Cities like Izmir and Antalya are distinguished for seaside life and social environment. Ankara is known for its academia and high concentration of student population while Eskişehir is popular due to its young population and student-friendly life.

## MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts say students of modern era pursue experience, social environment and international connections, not just a diploma. The youth studying in Türkiye benefit from a multi-cultural environment, establish strong connections with people of different countries and became a part of wide international network of alumni.

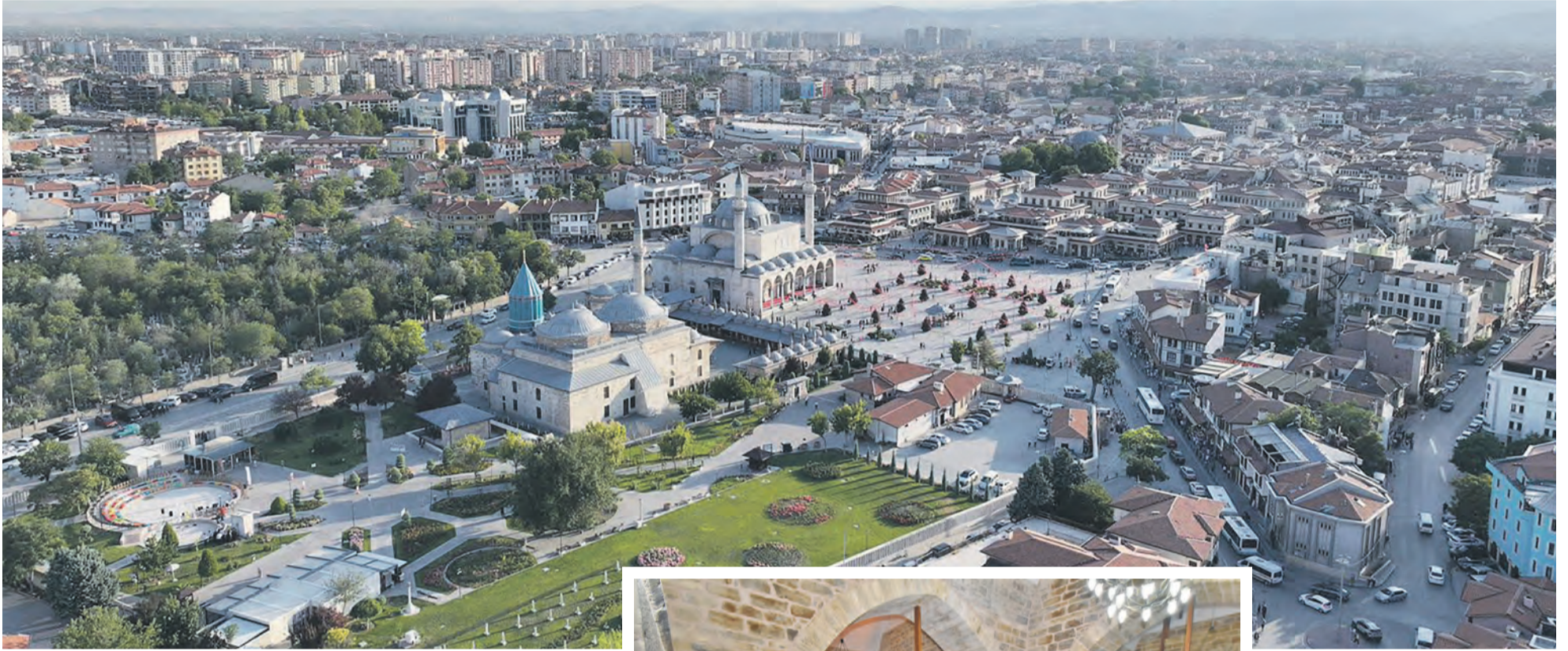
## COLORFUL SOCIAL LIFE

Quality of daily life is another factor influencing students' choice in addition to classroom environment. Students in Türkiye have easy access to concerts, festivals, culture and arts activities, sports events and many other social activities. Cafes, libraries, coastal towns, social facilities and activities for students help them to socialize. Diversity of Turkish cuisine is also an attraction for international students.



# Konya: City of youth, education, history and sports

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay underlines that Konya has been home to a myriad of civilizations for 9,500 years since Çatalhöyük, a UNESCO World Heritage site and invites all youth to study in Konya, a city home to history, culture and nature tourism, a city of youth, education and sports



Uğur İbrahim Altay, mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, says Konya, a historic capital of Türkiye, is a private city with a past of thousands of years and centuries of hosting numerous civilizations.

Altay points out that Çatalhöyük in Konya, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the oldest settlements with a history of 9,500 years and since then, Konya has been the site of a large number of civilizations which were born and grew there.

## CITY OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

Located at the heartland of Anatolia, on an area of 42,000 square kilometers which hosts a population of more than 2.3 million people, Konya is home to five universities with a total of 130,000 students. The city ranks fourth in Türkiye in the number of academic staff and students. The city is has high-speed train connection with İstanbul, Ankara, Eskişehir and Karaman. Konya Airport is also a hub of flights to İstanbul and İzmir.

"We have several projects for the youth with our Konya Model, a municipality model. Among them are Youth Assembly, Youth Center, Working Youth Assembly, Young Culture Card application, KAPSÜL Technology Platform, Social Innovation Agency, youth and education camps," Altay says.

## YOUNG CULTURE CARD

The Young Culture Card is exclusive to university students living in Konya and is introduced to encourage their participation to social, cultural, educational, sports activities. It is a comprehensive socializa-

tion program.

Using Young Culture Card, students can join social responsibility projects in the city and collect points to be used in expenses such as theater, concert, sports tickets and education expenses. Through a smartphone app, cardholders can also access draws where they can win books, online education and gym memberships.

## KAPSÜL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

For students interested in technology and innovation, Kapsül Technology Platform, which aims to contribute to country's National Technology Movement and technology-focused activities, brings together the youth working to represent the city and the country in Teknofest competitions.

The municipality's Konya Science Festival, one of the largest of its kind in the country, marked its 10th year. Elsewhere, Konya Science Center, Türkiye's biggest science center supported by TÜBİTAK, hosts tens of thousands of the youth every year.

City Conferences bring together famous figures with the youth in central Konya and districts every month. The annual Konya Book Days helps readers to meet hundreds of authors. Konya City Theater hosts tens of thousands of theatergoers every year at Selçuklu Congress Center.

## CHEAPEST TRANSPORTATION

Mayor Altay says the municipality's transportation services serve in the largest area in the country and trams and buses are employed in downtown Konya while



buses operate in the districts. Altay highlighted that they expanded their transportation fleet with environment-friendly vehicles. "For students, we continue offering the best fees for students in transportation. Student passes are only TL 12 and monthly subscription system offering free pass costs TL 450," Altay said.

## STRONG SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Altay said Konya had significant developments in sports in recent years, noting that they created new spaces for sports in every corner of the city. "We implemented sports projects for all ages. We are hosting marathons and festivals participated by tens of thousands of people. We also hosted Fifth Islamic Solidarity Games which were participated by 4,200 athletes from 55 countries. Konya was the 2023 World Sports Capital and it was selected as European Cycling Capital in 2026. It

also holds the title of 2026 Organization of Islamic Cooperation Youth Capital."

## BICYCLE CITY

Thanks to its geographic condition, Konya has the highest number of bicycle riders. Altay says they were working to expand it further and preparing projects that will set example for the entire country. "We are ahead of other cities thanks bicycle lanes amounting to a distance of 680 kilometers. Türkiye's first bicycle museum is also in Konya. We also have a bicycle tram which is very popular among riders," he said.

Konya is also home to bicycle repairing stations offering free services, bicycle bridges, special traffic lights for riders, bicycle parking stations, Smart Bicycle Transportation System (ABUS), electric bike rental services and buses equipped with bicycle racks.

## BEAUTIFUL MUSEUMS

Altay says Konya is also an open-air museum thanks to its history of thousands of years and rich cultural texture. "Every year, millions of visitors come here, particularly for Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi Museum and visiting historical and natural beauties. The municipality also built and restored several venues for reflecting city's spiritual texture, history and culture and they include Çatalhöyük Visitor Center, Stone Building Digital Center, Warehouse No. 4, Konya Panorama Museum and Irfan Civilization Research and Culture Center. I invite everyone to Konya which is beautiful throughout the year," he said.

## INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, EMPLOYMENT

Konya is among country's important agriculture, industry and commerce hubs with 12 Organized Industrial Zones and two Technology Development Zones. The city's competitive sectors include machinery production, automotive spare parts, metal casting, food industry, on-board equipment, plastic packaging, footwear production, agricultural machinery and equipment and milling machine production.

## INVITATION TO KONYA

Altay, who also serves as co-chair of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and chair of Union of Turkic World Municipalities, says Konya is a magnificent city with its precious universities, education infrastructure, venues for the youth and best examples of historic, cultural sites and nature tourism and invites the youth to study in Konya.



# Türkiye: The World's Safest Education Hub



CEYDA KARAASLAN

**W**ars, economic crises, visa barriers, and political uncertainty have reshaped the global education landscape. Students seeking safety and stability are increasingly turning to Türkiye. Having increased its international student population nearly fifteen-fold over the past decade, Türkiye has emerged as one of the safest destinations for global education.

The successive wars, political crises, and economic fluctuations experienced around the world have not only affected global economies but have also deeply impacted the international education sector. In the past, students primarily focused on gaining admission to the world's most prestigious universities. Today, however, the picture has changed significantly.

Safety, accessibility, visa convenience, living costs, and social stability have become just as important as academic excellence when choosing a university. In this new era, Türkiye stands out as one of the most attractive destinations in global student mobility.

According to data from the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), the number of international students in Türkiye has increased dramatically in recent years, with hundreds of thousands of foreign students currently pursuing their studies across the country. The official target is to reach one million international students by 2030.

Experts note that Türkiye's rise is driven not only by the expansion of its higher education system but also by its geopolitical position and the secure environment it offers during times of global uncertainty. Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Türkiye has increasingly come to be seen as a "safe harbor" for students amid growing regional tensions.

## SAFE COUNTRIES GAIN PROMINENCE

The Russia-Ukraine war, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, conflicts across the Middle East, social unrest in Iran, and increasingly restrictive immigration policies in Western countries are directly influencing young people's educational plans.

In particular, lengthy visa procedures, high living costs, and growing security concerns in the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe are prompting families to consider alternative destinations. Study-abroad consultants report that the first question parents now ask is no longer, "How good is the university?" but rather, "Will my child be safe there?"

Experts emphasize that students' priorities have shifted significantly in recent years. Families, especially from

Muslim-majority countries, increasingly prefer destinations that are geographically closer, culturally familiar, and socially secure.

Türkiye offers a unique combination of advantages: geographic proximity, cultural affinity, ease of transportation, relatively affordable living costs, and accessible visa procedures. These factors make the country a particularly attractive option for students from the region.

## GROWING INTEREST FROM IRANIAN STUDENTS

Iranian students constitute a significant portion of those choosing Türkiye for higher education. According to OECD data, more than 110,000 Iranian students are studying abroad, and Türkiye ranks among the most popular destinations due to its cultural similarities and ease of access.

YÖK data indicates that the number of Iranian students in Türkiye has exceeded 35,000. Experts suggest that economic challenges, youth unemployment, social pressures, and concerns about the future in Iran continue to fuel this trend.

Recent tightening of security measures on university campuses, the closure of some student dormitories, and growing economic uncertainty have encouraged many young Iranians to seek educational opportunities abroad. Lengthy visa procedures in Europe and

the United States have further increased Türkiye's appeal as an accessible alternative.

According to education consultants, Iranian students find not only academic opportunities in Türkiye but also a more open and internationally connected social environment. International student communities in cities such as İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Eskişehir, and Konya help newcomers integrate more easily.

## THE IMPACT OF WESTERN VISA BARRIERS

The stricter visa policies adopted by the United States and Canada in recent years have significantly affected international student mobility. Students now face challenges not only in gaining admission but also in successfully completing the visa process.

Rising rejection rates and prolonged periods of uncertainty for applicants from certain countries are prompting families to explore alternative destinations. Experts note that Türkiye stands out by offering a more predictable and accessible system.

Recent restrictions on international students' work rights in countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada have also influenced decision-making. Increasing rental prices and living expenses continue to reshape students' preferences. In contrast, tuition fees at Turkish

public universities remain relatively affordable, while scholarship opportunities offered by foundation universities further enhance Türkiye's attractiveness to international students.

## CENTRAL ASIA'S SHIFTING PREFERENCES

The Russia-Ukraine war has also transformed educational preferences among students from Central Asia. Many students who previously chose Russia are now turning to Türkiye. Experts attribute this shift to security concerns, economic sanctions, and broader regional uncertainty resulting from the conflict.

Türkiye has gained a significant advantage thanks to its cultural ties and academic capacity. Linguistic similarities also play an important role for students from the Turkic republics. Interest is particularly strong in fields such as engineering, health sciences, international relations, and software development.

## CAMPUSES ARE BECOMING MORE GLOBAL

Turkish universities are adapting to growing international student mobility through a range of initiatives. The number of English-medium programs continues to increase, while international student offices are being strengthened across campuses. Multinational social

environments are emerging, bringing together students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Many universities now compete not only through academic performance but also through campus life, technological infrastructure, research centers, and career opportunities. Technoparks, entrepreneurship centers, and international exchange programs are further enhancing their appeal.

Experts stress that international students should not be viewed solely through the lens of economic contribution. Students who come to Türkiye for education often establish long-term cultural and economic ties between their home countries and Türkiye.

## A NEW ERA IN GLOBAL EDUCATION

According to experts, the world is moving toward a new international education order. In this emerging landscape, university rankings alone will no longer determine student choices. Factors such as public safety, social stability, and a country's capacity to manage crises will become increasingly influential.

Through the steps it has taken in recent years, Türkiye has positioned itself as a significant player in this new equation. With its young population, strong higher education infrastructure, multicultural environment, and strategic location, the country is expected to attract even more international students in the years ahead.

## FROM GAZA TO CENTRAL ASIA: BUILDING AN EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE

Türkiye's educational diplomacy has become increasingly visible in recent years, particularly in regions affected by conflict and crisis. Following the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, many universities opened special quotas for Palestinian students. Through state-supported scholarship programs, hundreds of young people have gained the opportunity to pursue their education in Türkiye.

Similarly, for students from many countries affected by war and instability, Türkiye has emerged as a safe and reliable education destination.

Experts argue that this approach creates not only academic benefits but also diplomatic and cultural influence. Study-abroad consultants emphasize that international students should not be regarded merely as temporary guests but as long-term ambassadors of cultural connection. With the right strategies in place, experts believe that Türkiye has the potential to become one of the world's leading international education centers within the next decade.



# TEKNOSEL 2026, Anatolia's largest tech festival, concludes

Selçuklu  
TEKNOSEL 2026  
Technology Festival  
concludes with an  
awards ceremony  
where the genius  
of the future was  
rewarded

**T**EKNOSEL 2026 Technology Festival organized by Selçuklu Municipality, Selçuklu Directorate of National Education, KOP Regional Development Directorate and Innopark concluded with an awards ceremony for students. The first three-day stage of the festival was held at Selçuklu Municipality International Sports Hall with robotics competitions and the second stage was held at Selçuklu Congress Center where technology contests and activities catering to people of all ages were organized. The youth competed in technology during the six-day festival which also hosted visitors at the venue of activities. Contestants who won two stages were awarded on the last day of the festival.

This is the third edition of the festival where 120 teams competed in Free and Special Categories, 20 finalists took part in Gaza-themed AI film competition and 355 teams participated in mBlock coding competition and 567 teams competed across seven categories in the robot competitions.

## AN INSPIRATION FOR INNOVATION AND NEW PROJECTS

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says they were grateful to all contributors to TEKNOSEL 2026 where the youth were awarded. "We delivered awards for the first-place, second-place, third place, jury special awards and honorable mentions. For us, every team participating the festival ranked first. Being here, joining the competition, introducing authentic projects based on innovative ideas is the most important part. I congratulate all teams and students. This is just a beginning. It is important that they presented themselves, introduced, implemented their projects and demonstrated



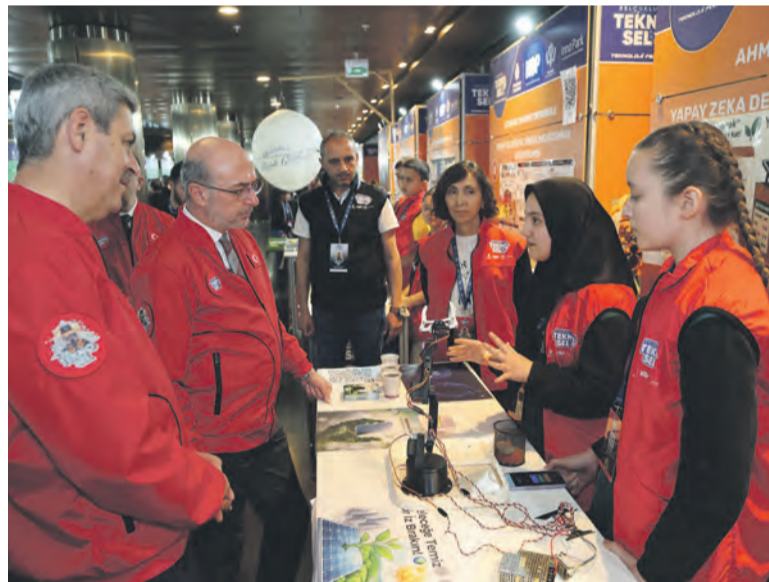
them to our guests and jury and showcased innovative products. We hope the innovative ideas demonstrated here will serve as a source of inspiration for future for new ideas, new projects. As long as teams, students and schools are interested, we will

develop our TEKNOSEL Festival further and continue it in the coming years in a more comprehensive manner," he said.

The awards ceremony was attended by Meram District Governor and Selçuklu acting governor Bayram Yılmaz, KOP Re-

gional Development Directorate chairman Murat Karakoyunlu, Konya Provincial Gendarmerie Commander Cemil Lütfi Özkul, Konya Chamber of Industry chairman Mustafa Büyükeğen, Innopark General Manager Ali Kahraman, Selçuk University

Faculty of Technology Dean Humar Kahramanlı Örnek, Selçuklu Belediyespor Club President Mustafa Yavuz Tezcan, Selçuklu Municipal Assembly Member Ayşe Lütfiye Poçanoğlu, teachers, students and their families.



## SELÇUKLU YOUTH CENTER MOVES TO THE NEW VENUE

Selçuklu Municipality which prioritizes the youth in every project, relocated Selçuklu Youth Center in the Bosna Hersek neighborhood to its location. The center is a popular hangout among the university students

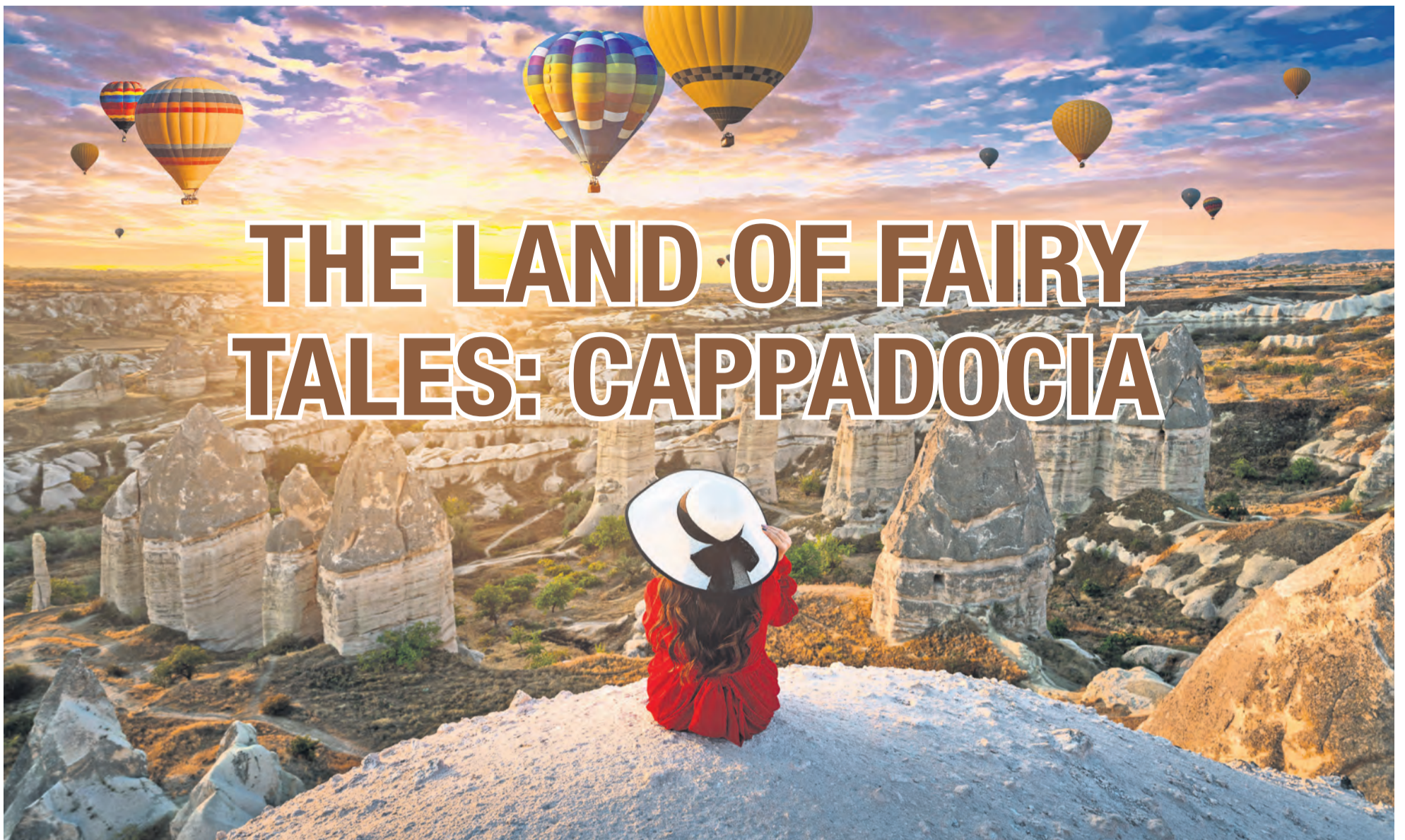


**S**elçuklu Youth Center, a project which prioritizes the youth, serves to the youth in its new venue. The center owned by Selçuklu Municipality provided new visions for university students and is set to be a popular spot again in its new location. The center houses studying spaces, social spaces, reading venues and entertainment venues, offering the students a comfortable place. An average of 600 students visits the center daily. In its new location, the center addresses all the needs of the youth. It hosts library, Wi-Fi connection, canteen, an 80-seat study hall, a 100-seat conference hall, a meeting hall and a recreational space.

### FAVORED BY THE YOUTH IN ITS NEW LOCATION

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says Selçuklu Youth Center is an important venue for students' social, cultural and scientific activities. "It will remain one of the most preferred locations for students. We increased the service capacity of the center by relocating it to a spot with high population of students in Bosna Hersek neighborhood. Selçuklu Youth Assembly organizes activities, we offer social, cultural and educational programs in cooperation with youth communities at the universities and civic society organizations, we help students with career planning," the mayor said. He added that the center was beyond a mere location to study and was a place where students can feel home. "We are delighted with interest by the students. I wish it will benefit all university students," he said.





# THE LAND OF FAIRY TALES: CAPPADOCIA

**C**appadocia... A dreamlike land gracefully shimmering in its texture – extraordinary natural settings, mesmerising vistas from dusk till dawn, ancient designs carved into soft rock, colourful balloons gliding past fairy chimneys, and the allure of history guiding visitors on a journey through time.

The sublime story of this land dates back millions of years, to the eruptions of two volcanic mountains in Central Anatolia: Erciyes and Hasan. The layers of tuff and basalt across the region were shaped by wind and weather, turning the formless into the mythical fairy chimneys stretching for miles.

As the natural formations took shape, humans left their mark through migrations, invasions, and conquests, adding new chapters to Cappadocia's storied past. Today, these ancient structures invite you on a magical journey through both time and wonder. Are you ready for the extraordinary?

## PANORAMIC VIEW OF A FAIRYTALE

One of the first sights to catch your eye is the gigantic rock rising towards the sky – Uçhisar Castle. Around this imposing landmark lies one of Cappadocia's most beautiful walking routes, weaving through Güvercinlik (Pigeon) Valley.

Uçhisar began as a small village built around the castle and gradually expanded down the slopes. Some say there were once underground tunnels stretching for kilometres, connecting Uçhisar Castle to the Ihlara Valley beyond – adding even more mystery to its history.

Today, the castle is surrounded by charming shops and stalls selling carpets, marble ornaments, mirrors, and, of course, delicious dried fruits and nuts to enjoy along the way.

## THE ADDRESS FOR THE WANDERLUST

Continue your journey to Göreme, the heart of the region. Despite the crowds it attracts, this scenic town retains a calm and timeless charm. Wind and rain over millennia have sculpted the breathtaking landscape that surrounds it.

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, Göreme radiates enchantment. Its rock-carved churches and underground cities – including Derinkuyu and Kaymaklı – stand as silent witnesses to the past. The frescoes inside these sanctuaries depict scenes from the life of Christ in vivid detail. One of the most remarkable of these structures is the Dark Church at the Göreme Open-Air Museum. Dating from the late 11th to early 12th centuries, it takes its name from the tiny window in its narthex that lets in very little light. This lack of light, however, has preserved the vivid colours of its frescoes for centuries, allowing visitors to admire depictions from the Bible

Cappadocia lies in central Türkiye – a magical land visited by millions each year. With its natural beauty, rich history, and unique culture, it feels like an open-air museum that leaves visitors with unforgettable memories



that have survived the test of time..

## CONQUERING THE SCENERY FROM ABOVE

As dawn breaks, you can drift peacefully over the valleys in a hot-air balloon – one of the most iconic experiences Cappadocia offers. From above, the valleys unfold in soft, velvety layers of colour and texture.

For over 20 years, Cappadocia has been one of the world's most celebrated ballooning destinations, attracting travellers from around the globe. The balloons, which rise up to 500 metres, depart from trails around Göreme early each morning, offering a truly unforgettable perspective.

## A JEWEL BOX OF A TOWN

Heading east from Göreme brings you to Ürgüp, a town brimming with wonders. As the largest settlement in Cappadocia, Ürgüp combines history, grandeur, and modern life. Its stone mansions and cave dwellings offer a glimpse into the region's timeless spirit.

Local markets display handwoven fabrics, model fairy chimneys, and a range of traditional crafts. Not far from here lies Avanos, the cultural heart of Cappadocia, famous for



its pottery and craftsmanship.

And when the day draws to a close, there's no better place to watch the sunset than Kızılçukur (Red) Valley, near Çavuşin Village and Ortahisar. As the sun dips, the red tuff formations glow in deep crimson hues – a romantic spectacle you'll remember forever. Visitors are encouraged to begin their walk just before sunset and reach the viewing terrace in time to soak in the valley's full splendour.



## A life engraved in volcanic ash

Your next stop may not reveal its beauty at first glance, but once there, you'll be captivated. Çavuşin Village, just minutes from Göreme, is a treasure trove of ancient ruins: stone buildings and fairy chimneys leading to the village square.

Follow the paths further, and you'll find churches and monastic houses dating between the 1st and 10th centuries. If you extend your walk a little longer, you can reach the churches in Güllüdere (Rose) and Kızılçukur Valleys – though perhaps the most striking of all is the Church of Saint John the Baptist, perched near the cliffside.



## A boundless dip into the olden days

As humans in a vast universe, we sometimes feel our world has become too familiar and long for something new. Yet even amid our routines, there remain hidden gems waiting to be discovered – precious moments to hold onto.

Cappadocia is one of those rare places that lets you leave your cares behind and rediscover wonder. Given the chance, these lands will never disappoint.



# Istanbul: Where continents and centuries meet

Istanbul, Türkiye’s bustling metropolis, is a city of endless charm, where the past merges seamlessly with the present. Straddling two continents – Europe and Asia – this spectacular city has absorbed the best of both worlds. Every step reveals relics of bygone eras, making it a living museum of culture, history, and modern life

**W**ith its historic landmarks, quintessential cuisine, vibrant nightlife, art and music festivals, diverse religious heritage, labyrinthine marketplaces, and the soul-stirring Bosphorus under the watchful eye of the Maiden’s Tower, İstanbul is a traveller’s dream. This intercontinental metropolis is a melting pot of culture, where culinary feasts, art, and architecture intertwine along the awe-inspiring Bosphorus Strait.

Istanbul is full of surprises – from historical sites to emerging designers and artists. Set your own pace, and let the city envelop you in its energy.

### THE ART AND CULTURAL QUINTESSENCE OF İSTANBUL

Today, İstanbul is a renaissance of art, music, and culture. Its rich historical heritage coexists with revitalised neighbourhoods and waterfronts, welcoming a new wave of museums, design-conscious architecture, restaurants, bars, cafés, and cultural centres.

The city seamlessly combines tradition and modernity. The old city reflects the influences of many empires that ruled here; the skyline tells stories of politics, religion, and art, while fashionable neighbourhoods offer everything expected of a cosmopolitan metropolis. Admire relics older than time itself, marvel at historical sights, and don’t miss the city’s contemporary cultural heartbeat – from third-wave art galleries to innovative culinary spaces along the waterfront.

### EMBRACING WORLD FAITHS AND WORSHIP

Istanbul’s cultural diversity is reflected in its religious architecture. Churches, mosques, and synagogues coexist peacefully, highlighting the city’s cosmopolitan roots.

Historic neighbourhoods such as Balat, Galata, and Beyoğlu are home to places of worship from various faiths. In this unique part of the city, you can visit a church, a mosque, and a synagogue one after another, spending a day immersed in İstanbul’s historical and spiritual treasures.

### THE ULTIMATE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Shopping in İstanbul is an experience in itself. As Türkiye’s fashion and business capital, the city offers everything from modern malls and boulevards to the centuries-old Grand Bazaar in Fatih.

Whether you’re seeking luxury brands or bargain finds, İstanbul has options for all tastes. Treasure hunters can explore the alleys of traditional markets, while those in search of contemporary fashion will find cutting-edge boutiques throughout the city.

### CULINARY ADVENTURES IN İSTANBUL

Istanbul’s culinary scene reflects its ever-changing vibrancy. From cosy meyhanes taverns on cobblestone streets to fine-dining restaurants with majestic views of the Bosphorus, the city is a gastronomic playground.

Hip restaurants near contemporary art galleries serve Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine, blending traditional meze dishes with modern fusion techniques. Some rooftop and high-profile establishments in Beyoğlu have even earned spots in the World’s 50 Best Restaurants list.

The philosophy of “New Anatolian Cuisine” underpins İstanbul’s food culture, combining traditional ingredients, culture, and techniques with modern innovation. The city is also represented in the MICHELIN Guide, reflecting the diversity and quality of its culinary landscape.

Street food vendors, fresh fish from the Bos-



phorus, esnaf lokantası (traditional tradesmen’s restaurants), akide (Ottoman rock candy), and lokum (Turkish delight) with a cup of Turkish coffee – no matter your craving, İstanbul will satisfy it. Be sure to arrive with an empty stomach to fully enjoy what the city has to offer.

### THE PERFECT CITY ESCAPE

The Princes’ Islands, just a short ferry ride from both the European and Anatolian shores of İstanbul in the Sea of Marmara, offer a serene escape. Car-free and largely preserved in their Ottoman-era charm, these nine islands (four large, five small) are ideal for walking or cycling, with new electric buses providing easy transport around the main islands.

For those seeking green spaces closer to the city, Belgrad Forest, Emirgan Park, Aydos Forest, and Otağtepe Fatih Grove offer tranquil escapes, perfect for picnics, walks, or simply soaking up nature.





# Life outside the school

With its cultural and social diversity, Türkiye offers activities outside the school for students in a vast spectrum. Students can choose between them, from cinemas and theaters to concerts and trips to historic places

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Being a university student is definitely not about being confined to studies, studying for midterm and final exams. Türkiye's rich cultural and social diversity means a wide range of activities outside the school for students. Here are some options compiled in "Study in Turkey" website of Board of Higher Education (YÖK):

**-STUDENT ACTIVITIES:** Every university houses student clubs that brings together students sharing a common interest and organizes relevant events. It can be an astronomy club coming together to watch solar eclipse or photographers' club where students can gather and tour the city in pursuit of capturing perfect photos. You can also join an archaeology club which organizes trips to archaeological excavation sites or a jazz club to showcase your musical skills. Elsewhere, a gastronomy club helps us to discover lesser known dishes of Türkiye. If you are a film enthusiast, you can join a club to explore classic films of world or Turkish cinema or contemporary movies. Just be passionate and sign up.

**-CINEMA:** The number of cinema halls in Türkiye is increasing every day. Some of the cinemas are located in the city centre, while others are in the shopping malls. Cinemas mostly shows popular movies and almost every film is shown almost simultaneously in Türkiye and the world. Other than latest popular films, there are also relatively small halls where films outside mainstream cinema are shown. Movies are usually displayed in original language and with Turkish subtitles.

Various cities in Türkiye host major film festivals throughout the year. Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Istanbul Film Festival, Adana Golden Boll Film Festival, Ankara Film Festival, , Mobile Film Festival and Malatya International Film Festival are among prominent ones. In these festivals, films are shown in their



original language and are mostly available in both Turkish and English subtitles.

Plays (theater) can be divided into three as state theaters, municipal theaters and plays performed by private theaters. In these performances, plays of both Turkish and World writers meet with the audience. Tickets for popular performances are sold weeks ago. Therefore, make your plans early. Theatrical plays are staged in Turkish.

For both cinema and theater, students have the right to receive discounted tickets. Show your student ID at the box office.

## DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS

**-THEATER:** Theater plays can be divided into three as ones performed at state theaters, municipality theaters and private theaters. These theaters offer plays both by Turkish playwrights and playwrights from other countries. Popular plays are often fully booked weeks ahead. Therefore,



plan ahead. Plays are staged in Turkish.

Students are entitled to discounted tickets both for plays and films. Just show your student ID at the box office.

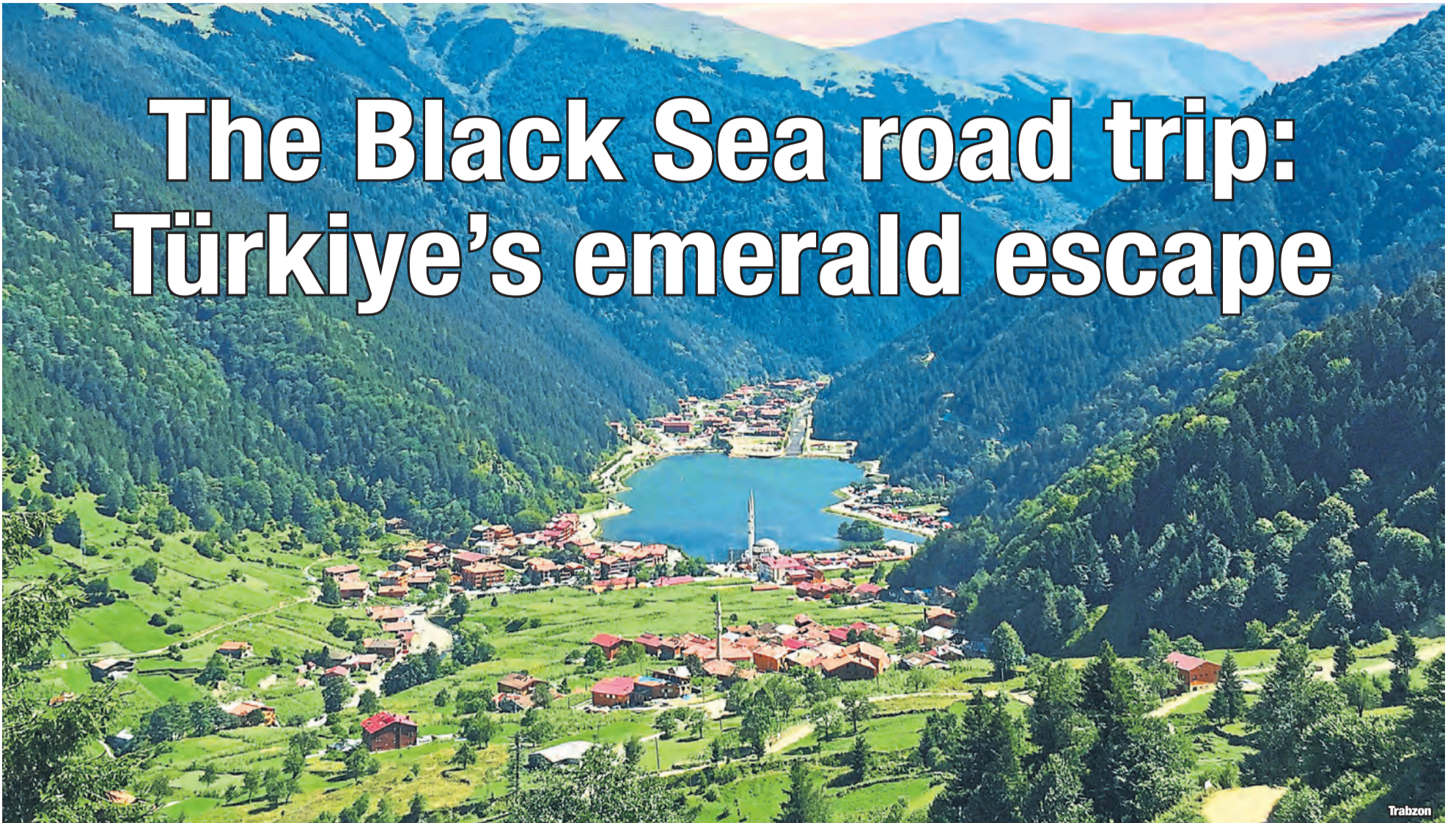
**-CONCERTS:** If listening to live music is indispensable for you, you'll find many places where you can listen local groups in the city where your university is located or find venues where artists popular in Türkiye perform. From pop music to classical Turkish music, from Turkish folk music to hiphop, many different kinds of musical experiences are waiting for you.

**-MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SITES:** Türkiye, which hosted countless civilizations and empires throughout its history has numerous museums and historical sites. In addition to museums and historical sites in the city you study at, Türkiye is home to Ephesus, Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, Göbeklitepe, Pamukkale, Topkapı Palace and similar landmarks you should definitely visit, landmarks of major importance for the mankind. You can find a full list of places you can visit on this website: <https://www.muze.gov.tr/en/museums>

**-SPORTS:** Türkiye is passionate about sports. Most popular sports are football, basketball and volleyball. Their matches in national leagues are highly competitive and fun to watch. Tickets are mostly sold online. If you are actively involved in sports, you can use sports venues at your university, which are offered for free or with a small fee. You can also participate in tournaments in campus or join the school teams.

**-SHOPPING MALLS:** You can find a major shopping mall in almost every city in Türkiye. The malls meet all your shopping needs and host entertainment centers as well. Shopping malls are crowded particularly on the weekends and prior to festive holidays.

# The Black Sea road trip: Türkiye's emerald escape



Trabzon

Türkiye's Black Sea coast feels like a world apart – a chain of villages strung along a narrow ribbon of land, hemmed in by the sea on one side and lush, rolling mountains on the other. Though often overlooked by foreign visitors, the region offers a beautiful glimpse of Türkiye's natural beauty and rich local life, with plenty to see and do

If you want to immerse yourself in an environment of unparalleled natural beauty and enjoy a long, scenic drive along the open road, Türkiye's Black Sea region may be exactly what you're looking for. With its lush landscapes, centuries-old culture, and irresistible cuisine, this northern coastline offers travellers the chance to uncover some of Türkiye's most enchanting hidden gems.

## SINOP

The journey begins in Sinop, a brilliant first stop on your Black Sea adventure. One of Türkiye's oldest settlements, Sinop has been home to ancient Greeks, Romans, and Turks throughout its long history. The city's humid, subtropical climate allows a rich variety of plant species to thrive, creating a magnificent landscape that transforms beautifully with each season.

A must-see is the Sinop Fortress Prison, known as the "Anatolian Alcatraz." Originally dating back to the 7th century BCE, it was later converted into a prison by the Ottomans. Boyabat Castle, another striking landmark, dates to the Late Roman period but resembles an Ottoman fortress. Perched on a hilltop, it offers panoramic views across the city. Food lovers should not leave without tasting Sinop mantı – a regional twist on Türkiye's famous dumplings. Unlike the classic version served entirely with yoghurt and sauce, Sinop's mantı is served half with yoghurt (with or without garlic) and half with crushed walnuts, offering a unique blend of flavours.

## GİRESUN

Giresun welcomes visitors with sweeping

mountain vistas, lush plateaus, and cascading waterfalls. The nearby Giresun Island (Giresun Adası) – one of the largest in the Black Sea – is believed to have once been a place of worship for the legendary Amazon warriors. Today, it mesmerises visitors with its serene natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

On your road trip, make sure to visit Kuzalan Waterfalls, and the Kümbet and Kulakkaya Plateaus, where you can breathe in the crisp mountain air and enjoy the pastoral scenery. And of course, don't leave without trying Giresun's world-famous hazelnuts, celebrated for their superior flavour.

## TRABZON

A jewel of the Black Sea coast, Trabzon offers a perfect blend of nature, history, and gastronomy. Begin with Altındere National Park, one of the region's most breathtaking landscapes. Nestled within the valley lies the awe-inspiring Sümela Monastery, an Orthodox sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary and built dramatically into the cliff face. Cloaked in mist and surrounded by forests, it feels as though you've stepped into a dream.

Before leaving Trabzon, stop by Uzungöl, a stunning mountain lake surrounded by wooden chalets and green slopes. It's the perfect place to enjoy fresh seafood or the famous Trabzon bread while taking in the view.

If you're a food enthusiast, a visit to Akçaabat is a must to try its renowned Akçaabat köfte (meatballs) – a delicious local speciality. Wherever you go in Trabzon, the region's rich cuisine

will leave a lasting impression.

## RİZE

Known as Türkiye's tea capital, Rize enchants every visitor with its misty mountains and endless tea plantations. Visit the tea factory, established in 1947, to learn about Türkiye's tea-growing heritage and sample freshly brewed tea right at the source.

In Çamlıhemşin, don't miss the Şenyuva Bridge, an elegant Ottoman stone bridge built in 1696 that gracefully arches over the Fırtına River. Nearby lies the Palovit Waterfall, where water plunges 15 metres into a deep gorge – creating a mesmerising natural spectacle.

End your Rize visit in the legendary Ayder Highlands, famous for their alpine-like meadows, evergreen forests, and thermal springs. Popular among hikers and photographers, Ayder offers one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of Türkiye.

## ARTVİN

For a magical finale to your Black Sea road trip, head to Artvin, a region of untouched wilderness and mountain charm. The Borçka Karagöl National Park is an unmissable highlight, home to the tranquil Borçka and Şavşat Lakes, whose reflections create an almost mystical atmosphere.

While in Artvin, indulge in local flavours – try kuymak, a warm, buttery dish made with melted Kolot cheese, or enjoy freshly caught fish alongside a glass of tea picked from the nearby hillsides. It's the perfect ending to a journey through Türkiye's most verdant and soul-soothing region.



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# Study in **SABAH** **TÜRKİYE**

30.06.2026

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## GUIDE TO ADMISSION TO TURKISH UNIVERSITIES

As the number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye flourish, people are searching for admission processes. TR-YÖS system, conditions for application, competition in fields such as medicine and engineering, required paperwork are among the most searched topics. Here are ten frequently asked questions by international students seeking to study in Türkiye and their answers.

# TÜRKİYE: WORLD'S NEW EDUCATION DESTINATION

With its 208 universities, more than 6 million students and growing research infrastructure, Türkiye draws global attention. The university ecosystem from Istanbul to Ankara generates international projects on technology, health and engineering. Hundreds of thousands of international students opt for studying in Türkiye while universities provide a gateway to an international career



PAGE 2



## COMPREHENSIVE CAREER OPTIONS

More than a country offering diplomas, Türkiye is also a place where international students can build their careers. University-industry collaborations, technology parks, rapidly developing tech ecosystem offer international career options to the youth along with education.

PAGE 6



## A CENTER OF ATTRACTION

For students pursuing more than a diploma, Türkiye stands out. Diverse campus life, developing tech ecosystem, affordable living and multi-cultural social environment make Türkiye an essential education hub for the youth.

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# Türkiye: Rising brand in education

Türkiye stands out in higher education not just with the number of its universities but also research infrastructure, international student mobility, tech investments and global career options

CEYDA KARAASLAN

The higher education in Türkiye is going beyond a system simply providing diplomas. With hundreds of universities, millions of students, growing research centers and international career options, the country is becoming a regional education hub. In recent years, Türkiye stands out both with the number of international students it hosts and scope and diversity of its higher education. The universities once confined to local students now hosts the youth from around the world. Growing academic capacity, increase in the number of research centers and strengthened international collaboration make Türkiye more visible in the global higher education map.

## 208 UNIVERSITIES IN 81 PROVINCES

According to the 2025-2026 data by Board of Higher Education (YÖK), Türkiye hosts 208 institutions of higher education. Students in the system exceeded 6.3 million while number of academics surpassed 189,000. These figures make Türkiye the host of one of the biggest higher education systems in Europe.

Istanbul leads in the number of universities with more than 50 universities and it is followed by Ankara, İzmir, Antalya, Bursa, Konya, Kocaeli and Eskişehir are among cities with a high concentration of higher education investments.

Experts say this boosts not only education but also urban economies. The universities contribute to technology investments, cultural activities, entrepreneurship activities and international mobility in the cities they are located at.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITIES

Over time, universities in Türkiye evolved into influential brands. Some institutions gain international visibility especially in the fields of engineering, health sciences, social sciences, arts and technology.

In engineering and technology, Middle East Technical University (METU), Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Yıldız Technical University and Gebze Technical University stand out. These institutions are distinguished in terms of projects on artificial intelligence, defense technologies, software and robotics.

In health sciences, Hacettepe University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Ankara University and Ege University stand out. A substantial portion of international students seeking to study medicine choose these institutions.

Koç University, Sabancı University, Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, METU and ITU are among universities with higher recognition in international rankings. QS and THE rankings host a large number of Turkish universities.

## GROWING RESEARCH CENTERS

Turkish universities recently boosted investments in labs, technology parks and research centers. Universities are now not merely institutions of learning but also centers developing technologies and projects. University-industry collaborations particularly in defense industry, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, health technologies and cybersecurity



rose to prominence. Many students have the opportunity to take part in research projects before they complete their studies or can work at technology park firms. Technology zones in Istanbul, Ankara, Kocaeli and Bursa are among centers helping students to be introduced to the sectors in the early years of their studies.

## NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GROW

Türkiye became a major hub for international students in recent years. According to the YÖK data, hundreds of thousands of international students study in Türkiye. Türkiye rose to prominence in terms of attracting international

students recently. Majority of them hail from Central Asia, the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. Lately, number of international students from Europe and Asia-Pacific also increased.

Türkiye Scholarships program is an important factor in rising interest to study in Türkiye. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people apply to study in the country.

## STRONG ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number of academics in Turkish higher education exceeded 189,000. In recent years, number of academics engaged in doctoral studies abroad also increased. Many universities expand

their investments in creating international publications, research projects and employment of foreign academics. Number of academics engaged in international research networks especially in engineering, health sciences and basic sciences is also increasing.

## INTERNATIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For new generation of students, universities are no longer solely an institution to obtain diplomas. Career connections, internship opportunities and international experience influence their criteria to pick universities. Many universities in the country provide edu-

cation opportunities in different countries through Erasmus+, Mevlana and other international exchange programs. In addition, number of dual diploma programs and joint academic projects is increasing.

Students, particularly those studying engineering, software development, aviation, health technologies and business administration have the opportunity of employment after graduation in Europe, the Gulf countries, Central Asia and North America.

## MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts point out that diversity is one of the biggest advantages of Türkiye's higher education. Technology-oriented universities, research universities, health education institutions, universities focusing on arts and international campuses are part of the same ecosystem.

The new generations of students aspire not only for enrolling in a fine program. They also choose universities where they can conduct research, become a part of startup ecosystem, make international connections and engage in social life.

With 208 higher education institutions, millions of students, growing research infrastructure and internationalization goals, Türkiye is fast becoming a global education hub.

## HIGHER EDUCATION FIGURES

- 208 institutions of higher education
- More than 6,3 million students
- More than 189,000 academics
- Over 300,000 international students
- İstanbul: Home to more than 50 universities
- Ankara: Second major university hub of Türkiye
- 26 universities in QS rankings
- More than 100 Turkish universities in THE rankings



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**TURQUALITY**

# A gateway to education to Türkiye from the world

**T**urkish Maarif Foundation offers quality education across the world at all levels from pre-school to university. The foundation aims to raise good people and build bridges of friendship between cultures with its activities in 66 countries.

Türkiye Maarif Foundation (TMV) was founded based upon a law enacted by Turkish Grand National Assembly in 2016, as a non-profit public educational foundation. TMV reaches out to more than 75,000 students with more than 500 schools in 57 countries from Asia and Africa to Europe and Americas, along with two universities, 11 research centers and 17 education centers.

## MAARİF AGENCY: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ENVOY

Maarif Agency, an initiative of Türkiye Maarif Foundation is active across the world. The agency provides guidance services for international students in their application to 208 universities in Türkiye, help them complete admission process and their integration in Türkiye. Additionally, it provides guidance services for universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. Maarif Agency presents best choices of country, city and university for academic careers of students.

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN TÜRKİYE

Türkiye has been a hub of attraction for international students thanks to its rich cultural heritage and quality education. Turkish education system is comprised of 12 years of mandatory education including pre-school, primary school, middle school and high school. After high school, students can opt for higher education institutions which comply with Bologna Process. Türkiye has two types of universities: state universities and foundation (private) universities. The language of education is commonly Turkish although many universities also offer programs in English. Programs including medicine, engineering, law, psychology and architecture are quite popular among international students.

## ADMISSION VIA TR-YÖS EXAM

International students are required to sit International Student Exam (TR-YÖS) for admission to state public universities in Türkiye. Based on their score, they have the opportunity to study in leading universities of the country.

## SERVICES OF MAARİF AGENCY

Maarif Agency provides support to students on various topics, from application process to accommodation in Türkiye. Among types of support is university admission consultancy, summer schools and language courses in Türkiye and abroad, education fairs and introduction



to universities, online applications. Students are also welcomed at airports and provided accommodation. In addition, health insurance, residence permit procedures, GSM line and orientation services for cities are among the services the agency offers. The services ensure a safe and supportive education process in social and cultural terms along with academic orientation.

## WORLD'S CULTURE CAPITAL

Türkiye has a unique location at the intersection of Europe and Asia. Along with its rich cultural heritage and multi-cultural composition, it is not just an education hub but also a venue for cultural discovery for international students. Türkiye hosts about 337,000 international students. The warm approach of hospitable society helps students to adapt to social life swiftly. The country hosts a variety of climates. Verdant mountains of the Black Sea, sunny shores of Aegean and Mediterranean and historical cities of Central Anatolia offer students both natural beauties and a treasure trove of history. Türkiye is also an affordable country with its cost of living and state-supported scholarship programs.

## STUDYING ABROAD

In addition to Türkiye, Maarif Agency offers support to those who seek to

study in Europe, the Balkans, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. It offers education opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctorate programs. Additionally, stu-

dents have access to language courses, summer schools and vocational training programs. After graduation, students are informed about working and residence permits and offered guidance services.

## DIGITAL GUIDANCE AND ADMISSION

Thanks to the digital platforms of Maarif Agency, students have easy access to information about the city, the university and the program they want to study at. They can upload required documents online to start the application process. After obtaining letter of acceptance from the university, the agency coordinates student's process of arrival in the country and accommodation. Thus, they can start their education in a safe and planned way.

## WANT TO STUDY IN TÜRKİYE?

You can find necessary information about all universities in Türkiye on the website of Maarif Agency.

- Choose the city, university and program you want to study at
- Upload required documents to sign up for the university at [www.maarifagency.com](http://www.maarifagency.com)
- Ensure you received letter of acceptance from the university
- We will accompany you when you arrive at Türkiye, at the airport and to the university.
- We will offer guidance about the dormitory you will be accommodated.

The agency's website introduces Turkish universities and offer digital services for pre-enrollment. Students seeking to study in Türkiye can scan the QR code below for the necessary information. You can check out our website and follow our social media accounts for detailed information.





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— İSTANBUL —  
OKAN ÜNİVERSİTESİ

# Studying in Türkiye: More than a diploma

International students are not just picking a university, they are choosing countries where they can build a career. Türkiye offers them both education and a fast-growing career ecosystem

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Obtaining a diploma was the basic goal of international students preferring Türkiye in the past. Things are changing. Next generation of students choose countries where they can pursue internships, create technologies, be included in entrepreneurship networks. This makes Türkiye an attractive location. Turkish companies growing in many fields from defense industry, software to aviation and health technologies are now working closer with the universities. This means a career opportunity for students along with a proper education.

## FROM CAMPUS TO TECHNOLOGY PARK

Number of technology parks and entrepreneurship hubs at Turkish universities rapidly grew in recent years. Many students can take part in projects before completing their studies, can join start-up teams or work at research labs. Engineering, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies are particularly popular. Students are most interested in:

- Artificial intelligence
- Software development
- Cybersecurity
- Aviation technologies
- Health technologies
- Game development
- Digital design

## PRODUCER, NOT CONSUMER

Türkiye's production capacity is also an attraction for international students. Investments particularly in defense industry, unmanned aerial vehicles, automotive technologies and healthcare appear inspiring for the youth. Many students describe Türkiye as a developing country of technology.

## UNIVERSITIES MORE ENGAGED WITH INDUSTRY

Hands-on training models are more widespread now at Turkish universities. Along with acquiring theoretical knowledge, students can join company projects and work alongside sector professionals. Istanbul, Ankara, Bursa and Kocaeli in particular are among cities with high level of collaboration between universities and industries.

## PURSUIT OF A GLOBAL CAREER

New generation of students desire acquiring skills to work in different parts of the world, not just in their own countries. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill before completing their studies, thanks to multi-cultural environments. Students from a diverse array of countries working on the same projects are now a common sight in many campuses.

## NETWORKING

The environment they built is one of the biggest advantages for students according to experts. The Türkiye alumni



can take up important jobs in different countries and keep in touch with each other. The university experience in Türkiye is not just an education process but it also means building a long-term, global network. Türkiye does not just offer classes, labs and diploma to the youth. It also paves the way for their next-generation career stories.

## SOCIAL LIFE INFLUENCES THE CHOICES

Social life is one of the main factors for international students to pick Türkiye for studying. The youth is now opting for cities where they can socialize and feel safe, not just those where they can attend

a fine university. Türkiye provides a vast experience to students in this regard.

Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Eskişehir and Antalya stand out with their lively campus life, cultural activities, vast means of transportation and social diversity. The university students attending classes during the day can attend concerts, festivals, tech and arts events in the evening.

Many campuses have active student clubs. Entrepreneurship communities, software teams, international student clubs, social responsibility groups help students to build a social environment, not just an academic one. Students coming together at the events help boosting cultural interaction.

The Turkish cuisine is also attractive for international students. A wide variety of options from street food to traditional eateries help students to adapt to daily life faster. Cafes, seaside towns, historical districts, student-friendly living spaces help students to socialize more.

Experts say the university experience is more than spending time in the classroom for today's youth. Social environment, cultural experience, urban life and international friends play a role in their choices of education venues. In this regard, Türkiye offers the youth a multi-dimensional campus life in academic and social terms.



## TOP POINTS OF INTEREST FOR STUDENTS

- Post-graduation employment opportunities
- Internship options
- English-language working environment
- Connections with tech companies
- Entrepreneurship incentives
- Working permit processes

## PROMINENT SECTORS OF TÜRKİYE

- Defense industry
- Aviation
- Software and technology
- Health services
- Tourism management
- Construction and architecture
- Digital media



## INSTITUTIONAL AND STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION IN TÜRKİYE-NIGERIA RELATIONS

# A Perspective Oriented on Diaspora and Public Diplomacy



Relations between Türkiye and Nigeria date back to diplomatic and military contacts between the Ottoman Empire and Kanem-Bornu Empire and have a deep-rooted past.

In modern era, opening of Turkish embassy after Nigeria won independence serves a strategic turning point as it was one of the first diplomatic missions of Türkiye in Sub-Saharan Africa. Today, relations went beyond the basis of "good will" and are evolving into the stage of rule-based, sustainable institutional partnership in multi-faceted fields such as defense, economy and education.

This strategic proximity between two countries, became more tangible with signing of nine agreements during a high-level visit to Ankara in January 2026. These agreements covering defense industry, media, higher education and family policies among others cover a comprehensive spectrum and aim to build multi-dimensional collaborations upon bilateral relations. The goal of \$5 billion trade volume on the economic level and the work of Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) indicate that the relations are beyond personal initiatives and are now linked to a technical and institutional follow-up mechanism.

Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) stands out as a central actor in managing human capital and diaspora diplomacy in this new era. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Diaspora Policies signed between Türkiye and Nigeria demonstrates the will of synchronizing the diaspora policies of two countries. As a practical reflection of this institutional cooperation, high-level meeting hosted by YTB President Abdulhadi Turus with the delegation of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission is critically important. At the meeting, Türkiye's deep institutional experience and human-oriented service models on diaspora management were relayed to the Nigerian delegation. The sides discussed joint working opportuni-



ties in diaspora strategies while the Nigerian delegation examined the operational units of YTB and was relayed detailed technical information about the presidency's support mechanism and wide array of its activities.

Elsewhere, Türkiye Scholarships program supervised by YTB grants scholarships to tens of Nigerian youth every year for studying at Turkish universities. This process reinforced with memoranda of understanding signed on education, higher education, is not merely an academic exchange between two countries. It also serves as a long-term and sustainable social contact ground through the alumni networks. This social investment proves that bilateral relations are not defined by economic cooperation and military acquisitions but by human resource capacity building reinforcing institutional trust.

The Turkish Language Program for Public Officials and Academicians (KATİP) by YTB, in the meantime, is an international education and cultural interaction program bringing together diplomats, public officials, academicians and researchers from various countries in Türkiye. During the eight-month program in

Türkiye, participants polish their Turkish communication skills and has a chance of getting to know Türkiye's cultural heritage, public institutions, social structure and daily life. Along with language education, seminars, visits to the institutions, cultural activities and city excursions present participants a multi-layered perspective on Türkiye. The program also contributes to establishment of strong friendships between participants and network of international cooperation. KATİP is an important platform strengthening intercultural dialogue, fostering mutual understanding and providing the ground for future international cooperation.

In conclusion, Türkiye-Nigeria relations are evolving into a model where ties are supported by technological transfers in defense industry and economic goals but the real driving force is soft power elements such as education and diaspora diplomacy. The close dialogue between YTB and Nigerians in Diaspora Commission creates an institutional synergy beyond relations between the states, to maintain regional security and stability in the West Africa.

## From the Stormy Sea To The Hope

I am in the middle of the Black Sea. It is unclear where the horizon starts and ends. The water and the sky are entangled. Waves sometimes lightly touch on my shoulder and sometimes, they gave me a hard smack like they remind me of the past. I imagine myself as a glass bottle with a letter inside. For years, I carried a story. I drifted, without knowing who'd find me or where I would end up. Then I realized that one only grows when one covers a distance. The bottle can turn into a ship without breaking itself. Today, I carry a story along with thousands of sounds, hundreds of memories and countless prayers.

In my childhood, the longest nights would be shorter with my father's stories. His words were as mild as a tale at times and as harsh as a requiem. Everything he has said, at one point, was linked to Türkiye. He has never seen Türkiye. He never set foot on these streets, never heard call to morning prayers in Bursa and never sat down with friends for a chat imbued with the steam of the tea. Still, he would tell about a country he has not seen like he has been a resident for years. Türkiye he talked about was not a country on the map, it was a sense of homeland that eases one's mind.

I didn't know back then what he was doing. Now I realize that he was planting the seeds in my mind with his words. These were the seeds of curiosity. Curiosity in one child's mind is indeed like seed on the soil. Seasons pass, snow falls, wind blow, one grows but that seed quietly takes root. Then, years later, it sprouts in an unexpected moment. Mine sprouted as I was packing my suitcase one day.

I was past the childhood in 2021. My questions were bigger than my toys. I knew who I was but deep down, I wanted to find out where I belonged to, which story I was part of. I left Crimea with a few clothes, silence of my ancestors, prayers of my mother, stories of my father and a fear of loneliness I hid from everyone.

When I set foot in Türkiye, it was not a trip to another country merely, it was like being part of a sentence I have been hearing for years.

I woke up with the first morning call to prayer. The sound permeating through the window was not strange. It was like the next chapter of prayers I heard during my childhood. I drank my first tea. The steam towering over the slim-waisted glass made the distance shorter. The thick remnants of the Turkish coffee were more than that; they were the prospects of friendships that would last for forty years. Stones, trees, fountains, glances of people along the streets repeated same thing: "You are not alone."

Before arriving in Türkiye, I thought the homeland was where you were born. Later, I found out that the homeland is sometimes a voice that really knows you.

Crimea is a wind-battered peninsula in the middle of the Black Sea. Its history resembles the sea, calm one day, swelling next day. I left the coast of the choppy sea to reach the opposite shore but I didn't leave my past where I left. Crimea was on my shoulder, in my heart on my way to Türkiye. Sometimes, coasts are not connected with bridges but human beings.

Still, I had one bridge: Türkiye Scholarships. Those believing that those scholarships only mean a financial support are not aware what doors they open in their lives. Türkiye Scholarships was beyond a means to study at university for me. It instilled me confidence to stand strong in a new country, it steered my education; it gave me the opportunity to meet people of different cultures under one roof. Türkiye Scholarships has its share in a substantial part of friendships now I have, my academic experience and my courage about the life.

Faith and education are two pillars of my life. One keeps my heart strong and the other one expands my horizon. One reminds why you live for and the other teaches you to read the world better. As I walked through the path between these two pillars, I occasionally had fears. A new country, a new language and new people... But I always heard that voice in the face of the fear:

"Korkma, sönmöz bu şafaklarda yüzen al sancak"  
(Fear not, for the crimson banner rippling in this dawn shall not fade).

This was not only a verse, it was also a will sustained for centuries. Then, I heard another voice from Crimea: "Ant etkenmen millet için ölmege. (I've pledged to die for the nation)". These two voices, from two different places, met in the same heart. One taught me not to stand down and the other taught me to live for a greater purpose.

One only diminishes when he/she lived her own life only. One only grows when he/she works for the future generations. Today, I know that my every step will be a footprint to be remembered for the younger generations to come. I did not carve out this path alone.



I had predecessors. Ismail Gaspirali's words "unity in language, opinion, work" were not a slogan for me, it is the truth to live by. I discovered how the homeland can be preserved in the words of Cengiz Dağcı. I found out that the language is not only a form of speaking but also the last coast of hope.

Therefore, studying Turkish Language and Literature was not simply a choice of education. It was taking over a duty. It was piecing together scattered sentences. I discovered how the pen may change people here. My fears shrunk as I wrote and my voice became clearer. The words fly but when written down, they escape the grasp of time. So, I am not merely speaking any more, I am recording. I discovered how valuable this was when I was introduced to Her Boydan magazine. Having students from different countries on the same literal pages showed me that the world is not as fragmented as I thought it was. I saw my pain in the sentences of a Palestinian friend. I felt the distance does not mean anything in the smile of a student from Africa. My friends from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Syria and the Balkans demonstrated that borders on the maps cannot be placed on the hearts. We were born into different languages but we have the same feelings, yearning, loss, hope and starting over. When the story of one of us was incomplete, another one completed it.

We relieved the burden of each other, sometimes around tea, sometimes in an academic camp and sometimes in conversations going well into next morning. The friendship meant more than words.

Türkiye on the map can be defined as a place size of thousands of square kilometers but for me, the true size of Türkiye is measured through hearts from across the world. I don't see countries on the maps now, I see faces. Every face reminds me someone who touched my life in this journey. Every name is a sentence added to my own story.

Looking back, I see my journey from Crimea to Bursa was not only that. This journey began with a child believing in stories her father told her. It continued with a young girl setting out though she was afraid. It deepened with friendships and acquired a new meaning with the knowledge. Now, it is something I will entrust to future generations.

I feel rich. This is not a wealth accumulated in a bank account. This is memories accumulated in the heart. The most valuable thing this scholarship program gave me was to know that I was not alone. It is an invaluable fortune to sit at the same table with people from around the world, to share the same ideals with them and healing the wounds of each other.

My journey as a little bottle drifting in the middle of the Black Sea is now on a ship with a clear route. This is no longer my story any more. My father's voice, Crimea's wind, mornings of Bursa, prayers of my friends and works of my tutors. They left marks on everything I carry now. I am not writing my story, I am trying to leave something to future generations.

Some harbors do not merely mean a new shore. They are places where you rediscover yourself, your roots and the meaning you carry with you. I am at that harbor and it is Türkiye. Türkiye Scholarships which guided me through this journey showed that the education is not only acquiring new knowledge but also reestablishing yourself and the world. The education is the path and hope is the essence of the journey.

URİE SEITUMEROVA



# Istanbul Aydın University

## Right location for jobs of the future



Istanbul Aydın University offers comprehensive education programs aligned with the needs of the times and the jobs of the future. The university pioneering education in strategically important fields, including medicine, dentistry, aerospace studies, software and IT, is committed to a vision of training qualified graduates with strong scientific skills and a passion for research.

Operating under the motto of "For A Bright Future," Istanbul Aydın University (IAU) is a higher education institution instilling its students with an entrepreneurial and creative spirit in line with needs of 21st century, through its experienced academic staff recognized for their scientific contributions both nationally and internationally and with its campus in the heart of Istanbul. The university offers education for more than 20 years at its 17 faculties and vocational school and achieved a nearly 90% employment rate among its alumni.

Istanbul Aydın University was founded in 2003 with the purpose of training qualified professionals sought after nationally and internationally and made a name for itself with its accomplishments in numerous fields. It helped more than 100,000 graduates enter the workforce after graduating from its more than 190 postgraduate programs, 187 undergraduate programs and hosts 52,000 students including more than 12,000 international students. It is one of Türkiye's biggest foundation universities and employs 3,000 academic and administrative staff.

### INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Istanbul Aydın University's motto is

### SOFTWARE ENGINEERING: ARCHITECTS OF A DIGITAL WORLD

Department of Software Engineering trains solution-oriented, creative software developers in line with needs of the digital age. A solid theoretical background is supported by modern labs, software development environments and real-world projects. Students play an active role in projects developed in collaboration with sectoral businesses and make their foray into professional world before their graduation, through seminars, workshops and internship opportunities.

The program goes beyond algorithms and coding and equips students with strategic thinking, communication skills and skills to develop solutions exclusive to the sector and makes a difference in the sector with its alumni with a globally competitive edge.



"For A Bright Future." It is a genuine urban university with its campus at the center of Istanbul and stands out with its academically accomplished faculty with scientific proficiency and student-oriented education approach.

In Webometrics 2024 rankings, the university is ranked 36th among 208 universities in Türkiye and 8th among foundation universities. In UI GreenMetric World Universities rankings, it is ranked 270th among 1,745 universities in the world while it maintained 34th place in the same rankings for Turkish

### ENGINEERS OF TECH SHAPING THE FUTURE

Particularly through its Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering, the university aims to train experts with high technological expertise in digital age. With an education approach focused on research, application and innovation, the university prepares its students for the future, raising them as individuals equipped with knowledge in the fields of artificial intelligence and data science. Qualified engineers who will contribute to Türkiye's digital transformation are educated by Istanbul Aydın University.

universities and 6th among foundation universities in Türkiye.

The university also made it to 501-600 rankings at the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings while holding 14th place among Turkish universities and 9th place among Turkish foundation universities in the same list. Additionally, it had a major accomplishment in THE's world university rankings by securing the 636th position.

### MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics provides a research-oriented education in the fast-developing world of science of genetics and is a strong starting point for students pursuing a career in the fields of healthcare, biotechnology and scientific innovation.

### PHARMACISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Pharmacy makes a difference in healthcare with its modern labs, strong academic staff and application-oriented education, training innovative pharmacists committed to ethical values.

### LEADING IN TECHNOLOGY

IAU's patented innovations, artificial intelligence projects and successful startups are supported by its incubation center while ElektroAydın, Cumhuriyet Rocket Team, Starsat7A and Starsat7B technology teams made their marks in their respective fields. The university made a name for itself with numerous patents and medals.

### GLOBAL EDUCATION, GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

The university has a prestigious place among world universities with its commitment to international education standards, advanced technological infrastructure and an approach centered on innovation.

Its education ecosystem is supported by 203 laboratories and 37 research centers, offering students integration of hands-on training and theoretical knowledge while providing students with extensive practical experience in many fields, particularly medicine and dentistry.

### LEADING IN HANDS-ON TRAINING

IAU aims to raise qualified individuals creating value in the professional life, individuals who can meet the expectations of the global business world, can efficiently use their knowledge and skills and retain an innovative mindset. To that extent, it regularly brings students together with its premium solution partners. Since 2004, it sets a primary example of university-industry collaboration by sending its students to companies in relevant sectors one day a week for hands-on training.

### A SAFE FLIGHT

The university's avionic program raises experts who take part in all processes of electrical and electronic systems, from design to maintenance. Advanced labs, hands-on training model and a structure integrated with the sector prepare graduates for a strong career in civil and military aviation.

### DENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

Faculty of Dentistry trains dentists highly proficient in their vocation through its clinics furnished with high technology, a strong academic staff and an education model based on hands-on training. The education is based on clinical experience, digital dentistry practices and one-on-one mentorship and provides a well-equipped educational environment for those seeking to specialize in healthcare.

### EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

Istanbul Aydın University provides a social environment for its students, to address their social, cultural and sports needs. It was chosen as the best university in Europe by the European University Sports Association (EUSA) and won 116 championship titles in European and Turkish championships, including 12 European championships, as well as 430 medals and 218 trophies in addition to numerous accomplishments.

### IAU FACULTY OF MEDICINE: GUIDED BY HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Faculty of Medicine combines modern health science with technology, offering a strong educational opportunity. Students develop their clinical skills at high-tech laboratories and simulation centers and can earn hands-on experience at hospitals starting from the initial stage of their education. Being a physician means improving people's quality of life and serving them directly. The university provides not only knowledge but also skills of critical thinking, questioning and lifelong learning for students. Interdisciplinary academic staff and interdisciplinary research opportunities train students both as physicians of today and future. If you are willing to have an impact on the lives of others and pursue the path of science, you should join this journey.

### A SKY-HIGH CAREER: PILOTAGE

Flying does not have to be merely a dream for you as Pilotage Department of the university opens the doors for a career in the skies. It offers an educational model where theoretical knowledge is backed by high-technology simulations and sectoral developments are followed through projects and collaborations. Modern classrooms, simulation systems and an application-oriented curriculum help students make a difference while learning. Graduates can pursue a career in many venues, from commercial airlines to air ambulances, business jets, cargo delivery and flight schools after completing a preparatory program in English and a 4-year comprehensive education program in compliance with standards of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM) and EASA. The Department also offers international exchange programs and internship opportunities for students to gain global experience and develop an international perspective in their career, along with polishing their professional skills.

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# YOUR FUTURE CHOICES



# Discover Türkiye

Türkiye's geographical location has advantages for students. It is located in a unique point where Asia and Europe meet and you can fly into many countries in less than four hours

CEYDA KARAASLAN

One of the main determinants in Türkiye's social, economic, cultural and political life is its location in the world. It is located at a place where Asian and European continents meet, a peerless feature. Türkiye is at the intersection of the Balkans, Caucasia, Middle East and Mediterranean basins. Thanks to its location, you can fly following countries in less than four hours from Istanbul: Finland, Morocco, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia, Turkmenistan and United Kingdom. Turkish Airlines (THY) is among the companies with highest number of direct flights to many destinations the world over.

Türkiye is a big country in terms of size, indeed, biggest in the entire European continent. The distance between country's eastern and western tips exceeds 2,000 kilometers. Anatolian and Thracian lands come closer to each other in Çanakkale straits and Bosphorus. Two continents are connected with each other by



land with three bridges in Istanbul. If you are good swimmer, you may cover this connection for a unique experience in annual intercontinental swimming race organized by Türkiye's National Olympics Committee.

#### A MATCHLESS NATURE

Türkiye is a peninsula surrounded by seas in the north, west and south. Elsewhere, Türkiye is usually mountainous, with an average altitude of 1,132 meters. In addition, Türkiye is home to countless rivers and lakes. Lake Van as big as a landlocked sea, longest river Kızılırmak and ancient rivers Fırat (Euphrates)



and Dicle (Tigris) are among them. Every year, millions of local and foreign tourists visit Türkiye to see the natural wonders.

#### FOUR SEASONS, SIMULTANEOUSLY

As a result of its geographical location and its distinctive features, Türkiye is home to different climates. The country is surrounded

by seas on three sides and is largely mountainous or has uneven terrain. Climate differences between landlocked regions and coastal regions are immense. Mediterranean climate prevails in the western and southern coastal regions, with quite low precipitation in winter. Landlocked, inner regions at higher altitude have rather harsh winters compared to other Mediterranean countries.

#### STUDENT-FRIENDLY DISHES

- ◆ **DÖNER:** Meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie is a common sight in windows of many kebab restaurants in cities. This Turkish specialty called döner is a type of fast food for students with the option of having it stuffed into a half-cut bread.
- ◆ **MANTI:** Manti is a type of dumplings similar to the ones in cuisines of other countries and is basically pieces of dumplings containing minced meat. It is usually served with tomato paste and yoghurt.
- ◆ **SOUP:** Türkiye has soups made of almost anything edible. Ingredients are usually for vegetarian taste and soups contain high amount of water mixed with diverse vegetables and pulses.

Some soups contain meat. They are ideal for consumption for a light lunch or dinner.

- ◆ **KURU FASULYE (DRIED BEANS) AND PİLAV:** Kuru fasulye (dried beans) and pilav (a rice dish) is a staple of lunches at university canteens and restaurants offering traditional food. Pilav is made of rice or bulgur and is often served with stews. Nutritional value of dried beans rumored to increase when consumed with pilav.
- ◆ **BÖREK, TURNOVER, POĞAÇA (PASTRY):** Pastries are basic food that will spare you from food preparation trouble at breakfast and are good as daytime snacks. You may find a wide variety of pastries at canteens, bakery shops and some restaurants.

#### TURKISH PROFICIENCY

EDUCATION language in some universities is English but in most of them, it is Turkish. Turkish proficiency is a requirement for admission to most academic programs but you may still be admitted to universities without basic knowledge of Turkish. In most universities, Turkish language preparatory classes are offered to international students once they are admitted to undergraduate or postgraduate programs. For a reasonable price and in some cases for free, you can have access to language lessons on various levels, usually 4 to 6 hours a day. Preparatory classes conclude with an exam testing language proficiency that helps you to be eligible for your studies. Make sure to check if your school offers complementary Turkish language classes in addition to preparatory classes.

Students eligible for Türkiye Scholarships which include monthly allowances, tuition fees, dormitory fees and healthcare insurance are offered free Turkish language classes for one academic year. Students receive C1 level Turkish proficiency certificate if they complete those classes and proceed with their regular university studies. Those who failed have the option of sitting another exam and additional time to study until the next academic year.

Separately, you can apply to Yunus Emre Institute (YEE) for learning Turkish before you start your studies and even before arriving in Türkiye. YEE, which aims to promote Turkish culture and arts and language around the world operates in 46 countries with 58 centers.

Once you arrived in Türkiye, you can apply to Turkish Application and Research Center (TÖMER) which is available in most public universities, to learn Turkish. You can sign in for Turkish classes in TÖMER branches in several cities to learn Turkish on Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

#### A WORLD-FAMOUS CUISINE

DAILY life in Turkish society is shaped around meals and lengthy dinners. The kitchen is at the center of the household. Even in big cities, families usually prefer having dinners together and at home. Dinner tables are not rearranged immediately after dinners and hosts and guests engage in lengthy conversations or listen to music. Turkish cuisine has a global reputation thanks to its rich ingredients and labor-intensive dishes. You may sample these unique dishes in restaurants or houses you visit as guest. Cooking at home is very common. You may purchase fresh food for your meals from greengrocers, supermarkets or open marketplaces open at certain days of the week. Although eating at home is common, you have plenty of options for eating out, from traditional dishes to simple sandwiches. Restaurants and cafes offering meat, chicken dishes and seafood, vegetarian options are readily available in all big cities.

#### CANTEENS

MOST universities have canteens offering two or three meals. Subsidized by the state, meal prices are very reasonable and they are offered as fixed menu or a la carte. In most universities, commissaries, restaurants and cafes are available outside canteens. Don't miss following meals if they are available in the menu:

- ◆ Karniyarık (stuffed eggplant)
- ◆ İmambayıldı (a variation in karniyarık)
- ◆ Tas kebabı (meat stew)
- ◆ Yaprak sarma (stuffed leaves)
- ◆ Kebab
- ◆ Baklava
- ◆ Kazandibi (caramelized milk pudding)

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# BAU: Shared choice of international students

BAU Global member Bahçeşehir University (BAU) tops the list of students in Türkiye and across the world with its academic accomplishments, education models integrated with technology, physical infrastructure, international collaborations and opportunities it offer



**B**ahçeşehir University, whose Board of Trustees is chaired by Enver Yücel, was founded in 1998 as a non-profit, foundation university in Istanbul, at the intersection of Europe and Asia. The university hosts 10 faculties, a graduate school, conservatory, school of applied disciplines and vocational school of health services. Together with medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, conservatory and law programs, it offers 58 undergraduate programs. Additionally, BAU is home to 31 research centers and 92 student clubs.

The university currently has 30,000 students and more than 7,000 among them are international students. Interviewed students usually link their preference for BAU to university's location at the heart of Istanbul and its international power, as well as being "more than a university with its integration with business world, technology and innovation."

## SCHOLARSHIP VIA APPLY BAU

Apply BAU, implemented in world's leading university, was introduced in Türkiye by BAU for the first time. The admission system offers scholarship to many accomplished students regardless of their exam scores.

## PREPARE FOR BUSINESS LIFE WITH COOP

COOP Education Model of Bahçeşehir University prepares students to business life. The model based on "my campus, my workplace" motto, brings together the university and the business world. BAU introduced the model to Türkiye in 2008, to help students meet the companies and eventually, more than 11,000 students were placed in business experience programs. Students both accumulate experience and have the opportunity of employment proposals by companies. Branded Course, an education model exclusively employed in BAU, involves partner companies to create their own content for the courses and introduce their sectors and applications to students. A total of 30,173 students benefited from

this program which takes university-private sector collaboration to the classroom under the supervision of academics.

## BAU HUB: GUIDING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Through BAU Hub, Biz Lab, BUG Lab, Hub Incubation Center and Hub Belgium programs, Bahçeşehir University facilitates the efforts of young entrepreneurs with its guidance. The Hub mentors entrepreneurs for securing financial support from various organizations, from the UN, EU to TÜBİTAK and KOSGEB. Hub Belgium, a part of BAU Hub Incubation Center, provides support for companies seeking expansion in Europe. BAU Tekmer integrated with BAU Hub, offers services to the youth in gaming and IT sectors.

## RECOGNITION THROUGH ACHIEVEMENTS

Bahçeşehir University ranks 59th globally according to Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025 by world's most prestigious higher education ratings institution. In THE's 2026 rankings based on fields, it ranked first among Turkish foundation universities in educational sciences. BAU also ranked third in arts and humanities, fourth in engineering and fifth in social sciences.

The university is also recipient of multiple awards on "export in education" by Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TIM) and was awarded in 2025 in service exports by Turquality support program which marks its 20th year in supporting Turkish brands' international competition.

## GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK

Bahçeşehir University is distinguished among others by offering exclusive opportunities to students to study in many countries, in addition to exchange programs for global education. It offers education at institutions which are members of BAU Global in Berlin, Washington D.C., Georgia's Batumi and Gime (Kyrenia) of Northern Cyprus.

Students have access to a comprehensive English program with Mentora College in Washington D.C. as part of BAU Global. Additionally, through Dual Up system, they can have double degrees by studying one year in Germany, via programs at Berlin International University of Applied Science which offers equivalence.

Bay Atlantic University in Washington D.C., another member of BAU Global network, offers undergraduate and postgraduate (MBA) education for students from all across the world, along with online certificate programs. Students who completed their third year in BAU undergraduate programs can also have access to education at Kansas University School of Law, with the option of having a diploma from Türkiye and a postgraduate diploma from the United States. After completing law courses in the United States, students are eligible to sit bar exams in the states of New York, California, Washington, Georgia and Wisconsin.

## BAU CAMPUS: INNOVATION AND PRODUCTION HUB

BAU Campus introduced this year within university's compound, serves students and Istanbul with its academy-private sector integration, AI-integrated education, multidisciplinary labs, venues for culture and arts, a congress center hosting experts of their fields from around the world, interactive learning infrastructure, specialization programs for career support and international collaborations. The Campus hosts a modern library, high-tech classrooms, labs for engineering sciences, from electricity, control and automation, civil engineering, antennae and communications, power electronics, robotics, chemistry, genetics, smart energy management systems, along with labs under Advance Sciences and Medical Engineering, including physics, nanooptics, cell, movement analysis and biomedical engineering labs.

## BAU, A CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF ISTANBUL

BAU Global President Enver Yücel: Next-gen universities should be transformed for the future world

**ENVER YÜCEL**, president of BAU Global and chair of Bahçeşehir University Board of Trustees offer insights in many fields, from education approach and technology's integration, from internationalization to jobs of the future. Yücel highlights the education is among significant determining factors for future of societies, adding that Bahçeşehir University located at the heart of Istanbul is more than a university with the opportunities it presented, its collaboration, a strong understanding of education for local and international students.

Yücel says project-based and application-oriented approach gained importance in education and they were aiming to raise students as individuals with self-confidence, capable of teamwork and with leadership skills. He pointed out that the knowledge was transforming fast in the new era. "We cannot process today with the past knowledge. Universities should be venues not merely relaying knowledge but rather, venues where the knowledge is converted into application."

He said they held lengthy consultations with academics and members of the business world in the process leading to foundation of Bahçeşehir University, a member of BAU Global network, and the university's basic vision has been "an international university offering application." "We are building the universities of tomorrow," he said, adding that the technology played a transformative

role in education. He noted that the technology was essential for equal opportunities, adding that they launched remote education programs years ago and AI-supported systems were now serving as digital assistants for students.

On international collaborations of Bahçeşehir University, Yücel said they had agreements with about 150 universities and the students can study in several countries, giving examples of Bay Atlantic University in the United States, Berlin International University in Germany and BAU International University in Georgia which became part of their global education network.

## ISTANBUL AS A UNIVERSITY

Yücel says Istanbul's multi-cultural life contributed greatly to the university. He stated that the university had students from some 140 countries, adding that almost every one in five students were foreign nationals at the university which hosts about 30,000 students. "Istanbul itself is a university," Yücel says.

He noted that Bahçeşehir University stood out among preference of international students.

Yücel advises the youth to adhere to lifelong learning, pointing out that one occupation would not be sustainable for them in the future. He recommends students to deepen their knowledge in their fields of interest and highlights the need to redesign the curriculum based on changing living conditions.



## 'A bridge to the world in AI education'

**ABDULLAHI BALA MOHAMMED – (STUDENT AT BAU FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING):** "There are many options around the world but what attracted me to BAU most was university's high ranking. Studying in Istanbul, a fascinating city with an ancient history is a unique experience itself. Quality of education here is epic; lively campus life and vibe of the city makes this process all the more meaningful. I put all the technical experience I had throughout my education into practice with my senior project. This process was very valuable in terms of translating what we learned at the class into the real world. With its Erasmus and exchange programs, BAU presents students a vision of the world. I recommend BAU to students from my country because this is a bridge that will connect them to the world. A very easy process of choice and enrollment is a plus too."

# More Than a University

- BAU CAMPUS : AT THE HEART OF İSTANBUL
- COLLABORATION WITH 360 UNIVERSITIES IN 60 COUNTRIES
- DUAL-UP : DUAL DEGREE IN TWO COUNTRIES
- INTERNSHIP IN 3200 PARTNER BRANDS THROUGH CO-OP
- NEXT - GENERATION LABS AND CENTERS
- GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK WITH BAU NETWORK



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# Q & A on admission to Turkish universities

Number of international students seeking to study in Türkiye is growing every year but how can you apply to Turkish universities? What is TR-YÖS? Which documents are required? How can you enroll in programs like engineering and medicine? Here are the questions and answers



CEYDA KARAASLAN

Türkiye is now home to more than 350,000 international students. The youth from across the world, from Africa and the Balkans to Central Asia and Europe choose Türkiye for education. However, university application system may appear complicated at first for most candidates. Türkiye carried out significant changes in international student admission processes in recent years and Türkiye International Student

## FIVE STEPS OF THE ADMISSION

- 1-Sit TR-YÖS or other required exams
- 2-Check out the universities
- 3-Prepare the paperwork
- 4-Apply online
- 5-Complete registration and visa processes after admission

## PROPER STRATEGY

International student admission system became more professional and central according to the experts. Nevertheless, preparing for the exam alone is not sufficient for a successful application.

### Students should:

- check out the university thoroughly
  - check out the quotas regularly
  - manage paperwork processes correctly
  - have a good planning on the language they want to study at and the city they prefer to study at
- Along with a campus, candidates seeking to study in Türkiye apply for a multi-cultural student life, good academic opportunities and opportunities for pursuing a global career.

Admission Exam (TR-YÖS) is playing a central role in international student applications. Here is all you need to know to apply to study in Türkiye:

### 1- WHAT IS TR-YÖS?

TR-YÖS or Türkiye International Student Admission Exam (TR-YÖS), is a central exam for international students seeking to study at Türkiye's higher education institutions and is conducted by Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM). The exam is one of the important assessment tools in international student admission processes. Today, many state-run universities base their admissions on the score students achieve at TR-YÖS. The exam is held in different languages including Turkish, English and Arabic.

### 2- WHO CAN APPLY?

Students of foreign nationalities, students with Blue Card and students who completed their high school studies in their entirety abroad can apply.

Due to recent regulations, certain students of foreign nationality who attended high school in Türkiye are required to sit YKS or university exam for Turkish students. Experts advise candidates to check their citizenship and high school graduation status before applying to TR-YÖS.

### 3- HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Applications can be made online. Candidates can complete application process by uploading their passport information, personal information, photos, contact information to the official website of ÖSYM. The exam is held twice a

year. Applications for this year's second exam will be open between July 9 and August 3 while candidates who missed those dates can apply between August 7 and August 11. The exam will be held on October 11, 2026.

### 4- CAN ANYONE PASSING THE EXAM GET ENROLLED?

No. TR-YÖS scores do not necessarily secure enrollment to any university. After obtaining exam results, candidates separately apply to the university of their choice. The university assess the application based on its own quota and its admission criteria. For this reason, it is essential to check university's conditions of application beforehand.

### 5- DO ALL UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT TR-YÖS SCORE?

Majority of state-run universities accept TR-YÖS scores but some foundation (private) universities may require different assessment criteria. Some institutions may ask for grade of (high school) diploma, international exam score or an additional interview. Therefore, it is crucial for candidates to search for further information at universities' international student offices.

### 6- IS THE EXAM SCORE ALONE IS IMPORTANT?

Not always. Some universities can ask for additional requirements such as high school diploma score, national exam score, international exam documents and letter of recommendation. Candidates' academic background may

matter more especially for programs more popular among applicants.

### 7- ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION TO MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY MORE DIFFICULT?

Yes. Competition is quite high in applications to health programs such as medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. Some universities accept only very high TR-YÖS scores in application to these programs. Thousands of people apply for these programs despite limited quota. According to the experts, success rankings in the fields related to health are increasing every year. Most competitive programs are medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, software engineering and aviation.

### 8- WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION?

Documents may vary for each university but they generally ask for:

- Passport
- High school diploma
- Academic transcript
- Official document of TR-YÖS score
- Photos
- Identity or citizenship documents
- Additional documents for some programs

Most documents may be required to be certified by a notary or an official translator. Therefore, candidates are advised to launch documentation process early.

### 9-WHEN TO APPLY?

Universities usually launch application period in the summer but each uni-

versity may have a different timetable. So, it is advised to regularly check universities' official websites. Some universities may also open additional placement windows and introduce additional quotas.

### 10- WHAT CAN STUDENTS WHOSE APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED EXPECT?

Students approved for admissions go through the following processes:

- official, final enrolment
- student visa
- residence permit procedures
- health insurance
- accommodation

International student offices of most universities offer guidance in these processes. Orientation programs at campuses facilitate students' adaptation to Türkiye. Consultancy services of universities are crucial especially for students leaving their country for the first time to study abroad.

## FEATURES OF TR-YÖS

TR-YÖS measures not only the knowledge but also applicants' skills in mathematics, problem solving and analytical skills. Candidates are asked 80 questions they have to solve in 100 minutes. Every four wrong answers deduct one correct answer from the overall score. TR-YÖS scores are calculated on a standardized system. Scores usually range between 100 and 500 points.

## HOW MANY POINTS ARE REQUIRED?

- 250–300 points: May apply to many programs
- 300–400 points: An advantage in admission to prominent state-run universities
- 400 points and more: A higher chance for admission to medicine and dentistry programs



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# Studying in Türkiye: More than a campus

The youth opt for countries offering more than a diploma, countries where they can build a career, socialize and make a gateway to other countries. Türkiye stands out for students due to vast opportunities from education and tech to social life and cultural diversity

CEYDA KARAASLAN

International student mobility in the world is growing. However, students' criteria changed. Enrolling in a fine university was sufficient in the past. Today, prospective students seek more than education quality, such as social life, a good technology ecosystem, career opportunities, lower cost of living and post-graduation opportunities. This change in criteria boosted prominence of Türkiye in recent years. Türkiye is an attractive hub for international students with its young population, developing university infrastructure, diverse campus life and fast-growing technology investments. Cities, particularly Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya and Eskişehir draw students not only for education but also social and cultural life.

## STRATEGIC LOCATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

One of the biggest advantages of Türkiye is its location. A bridge between Europe and Asia, Türkiye offers students proximity to different cultures. The European capitals, the Middle Eastern countries, the Balkans, Caucasus and North Africa are only a few hours away via air travel. Students view it as an advantage especially for international careers.

For many students, Türkiye is not merely a location for education but also a regional hub. The youth studying in Türkiye can connect with people from different countries and build up career networking while studying.



## DIVERSE CAMPUS LIFE

The campus life at Turkish universities underwent a major transformation in recent years. The universities are now more than venues where people study. They evolved into the centers of social life and campuses host hundreds of different student clubs.

Tech communities, entrepreneurship hubs, social responsibility teams, sports clubs, arts communities, international student unions help socialization of the youth.

Throughout the year, many universities host concerts, festivals, career summits, hackathons, entrepreneurship contests and cultural events. These activities especially help international students to adapt to Türkiye faster. Students from different countries taking part in the same projects are now common sight at campuses.

## INCREASING AFFORDABILITY

Another advantage of Türkiye is affordability of the education and lower cost of living compared to other countries. Compared to big cities in Europe

and North America, accommodation, transportation and similar costs as well as meals are quite affordable. Education expenses particularly at state-run universities are far lower compared to many countries. Students also benefit from cheaper transportation tickets, social facilities, dormitories and in-campus services. These advantages play a major role in choosing Türkiye to study for students particularly from Africa, Central Asia, the Balkans and the Middle East, according to experts.

## MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Hundreds of thousands of international students studying in Türkiye mean meeting of diverse cultures in the same campuses. Students from several countries study in the same classroom, take part in the same projects and get together at social events. This helps them socialize better. In today's business world, intercultural communication skills matter. Those studying in Türkiye acquire this skill long before their graduation.

International students often high-

light warm attitude of Turkish people and their hospitality. Friendships built at campuses last beyond graduation.

## MODERN RESEARCH CENTERS

Number of research labs, applied education centers and technology park investments significantly increased in Türkiye in recent years. Universities support students not only with theoretical knowledge but also applicable projects.

The country hosts important research centers particularly on engineering, health sciences, artificial intelligence, software, biotechnology and defense technologies.

Many students work at research labs before graduation or they can take part in projects jointly developed with technology companies. Some universities offer a spot in start-up teams for students. Thus, the youth can have access to sectoral experience.

## DEVELOPING TECH ECOSYSTEM

Growth in defense industry, artificial intelligence, game development, software and health technologies make Türkiye more attractive for the youth. Increasing collaboration between universities and private sector influence students' career plans. Technology parks especially in Istanbul and Ankara host young entrepreneurs working alongside students in the same ecosystem. Many students have the opportunity of pre-graduation internship at technology firms or working on project development. Experts say new generation of students pursue developing projects and launching startups instead of solely focusing on finding jobs. Growing tech investments in Türkiye supports this expectation.

## MODERN LIFE MEETS HISTORY

One of distinctions of Türkiye is coexistence of historical heritage and modern living. Students can live world's most important historic cities while studying at modern campuses.

Istanbul in particular stands out for students. Historical buildings, museums,

art centers, concert venues, cafes, technology centers and campuses are part of the same city life. Cities like Izmir and Antalya are distinguished for seaside life and social environment. Ankara is known for its academia and high concentration of student population while Eskişehir is popular due to its young population and student-friendly life.

## MORE THAN A DIPLOMA

Experts say students of modern era pursue experience, social environment and international connections, not just a diploma. The youth studying in Türkiye benefit from a multi-cultural environment, establish strong connections with people of different countries and became a part of wide international network of alumni.

## COLORFUL SOCIAL LIFE

Quality of daily life is another factor influencing students' choice in addition to classroom environment. Students in Türkiye have easy access to concerts, festivals, culture and arts activities, sports events and many other social activities. Cafes, libraries, coastal towns, social facilities and activities for students help them to socialize. Diversity of Turkish cuisine is also an attraction for international students.



# Konya: City of youth, education, history and sports

Konya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Uğur İbrahim Altay underlines that Konya has been home to a myriad of civilizations for 9,500 years since Çatalhöyük, a UNESCO World Heritage site and invites all youth to study in Konya, a city home to history, culture and nature tourism, a city of youth, education and sports



Uğur İbrahim Altay, mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, says Konya, a historic capital of Türkiye, is a private city with a past of thousands of years and centuries of hosting numerous civilizations.

Altay points out that Çatalhöyük in Konya, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the oldest settlements with a history of 9,500 years and since then, Konya has been the site of a large number of civilizations which were born and grew there.

## CITY OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS

Located at the heartland of Anatolia, on an area of 42,000 square kilometers which hosts a population of more than 2.3 million people, Konya is home to five universities with a total of 130,000 students. The city ranks fourth in Türkiye in the number of academic staff and students. The city is has high-speed train connection with İstanbul, Ankara, Eskişehir and Karaman. Konya Airport is also a hub of flights to İstanbul and İzmir.

"We have several projects for the youth with our Konya Model, a municipality model. Among them are Youth Assembly, Youth Center, Working Youth Assembly, Young Culture Card application, KAPSÜL Technology Platform, Social Innovation Agency, youth and education camps," Altay says.

## YOUNG CULTURE CARD

The Young Culture Card is exclusive to university students living in Konya and is introduced to encourage their participation to social, cultural, educational, sports activities. It is a comprehensive socializa-

tion program.

Using Young Culture Card, students can join social responsibility projects in the city and collect points to be used in expenses such as theater, concert, sports tickets and education expenses. Through a smartphone app, cardholders can also access draws where they can win books, online education and gym memberships.

## KAPSÜL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

For students interested in technology and innovation, Kapsül Technology Platform, which aims to contribute to country's National Technology Movement and technology-focused activities, brings together the youth working to represent the city and the country in Teknofest competitions.

The municipality's Konya Science Festival, one of the largest of its kind in the country, marked its 10th year. Elsewhere, Konya Science Center, Türkiye's biggest science center supported by TÜBİTAK, hosts tens of thousands of the youth every year.

City Conferences bring together famous figures with the youth in central Konya and districts every month. The annual Konya Book Days helps readers to meet hundreds of authors. Konya City Theater hosts tens of thousands of theatergoers every year at Selçuklu Congress Center.

## CHEAPEST TRANSPORTATION

Mayor Altay says the municipality's transportation services serve in the largest area in the country and trams and buses are employed in downtown Konya while



buses operate in the districts. Altay highlighted that they expanded their transportation fleet with environment-friendly vehicles. "For students, we continue offering the best fees for students in transportation. Student passes are only TL 12 and monthly subscription system offering free pass costs TL 450," Altay said.

## STRONG SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Altay said Konya had significant developments in sports in recent years, noting that they created new spaces for sports in every corner of the city. "We implemented sports projects for all ages. We are hosting marathons and festivals participated by tens of thousands of people. We also hosted Fifth Islamic Solidarity Games which were participated by 4,200 athletes from 55 countries. Konya was the 2023 World Sports Capital and it was selected as European Cycling Capital in 2026. It

also holds the title of 2026 Organization of Islamic Cooperation Youth Capital."

## BICYCLE CITY

Thanks to its geographic condition, Konya has the highest number of bicycle riders. Altay says they were working to expand it further and preparing projects that will set example for the entire country. "We are ahead of other cities thanks bicycle lanes amounting to a distance of 680 kilometers. Türkiye's first bicycle museum is also in Konya. We also have a bicycle tram which is very popular among riders," he said.

Konya is also home to bicycle repairing stations offering free services, bicycle bridges, special traffic lights for riders, bicycle parking stations, Smart Bicycle Transportation System (ABUS), electric bike rental services and buses equipped with bicycle racks.

## BEAUTIFUL MUSEUMS

Altay says Konya is also an open-air museum thanks to its history of thousands of years and rich cultural texture. "Every year, millions of visitors come here, particularly for Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi Museum and visiting historical and natural beauties. The municipality also built and restored several venues for reflecting city's spiritual texture, history and culture and they include Çatalhöyük Visitor Center, Stone Building Digital Center, Warehouse No. 4, Konya Panorama Museum and Irfan Civilization Research and Culture Center. I invite everyone to Konya which is beautiful throughout the year," he said.

## INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, EMPLOYMENT

Konya is among country's important agriculture, industry and commerce hubs with 12 Organized Industrial Zones and two Technology Development Zones. The city's competitive sectors include machinery production, automotive spare parts, metal casting, food industry, on-board equipment, plastic packaging, footwear production, agricultural machinery and equipment and milling machine production.

## INVITATION TO KONYA

Altay, who also serves as co-chair of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and chair of Union of Turkic World Municipalities, says Konya is a magnificent city with its precious universities, education infrastructure, venues for the youth and best examples of historic, cultural sites and nature tourism and invites the youth to study in Konya.



# Türkiye: The World's Safest Education Hub



CEYDA KARAASLAN

**W**ars, economic crises, visa barriers, and political uncertainty have reshaped the global education landscape. Students seeking safety and stability are increasingly turning to Türkiye. Having increased its international student population nearly fifteen-fold over the past decade, Türkiye has emerged as one of the safest destinations for global education.

The successive wars, political crises, and economic fluctuations experienced around the world have not only affected global economies but have also deeply impacted the international education sector. In the past, students primarily focused on gaining admission to the world's most prestigious universities. Today, however, the picture has changed significantly.

Safety, accessibility, visa convenience, living costs, and social stability have become just as important as academic excellence when choosing a university. In this new era, Türkiye stands out as one of the most attractive destinations in global student mobility.

According to data from the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), the number of international students in Türkiye has increased dramatically in recent years, with hundreds of thousands of foreign students currently pursuing their studies across the country. The official target is to reach one million international students by 2030.

Experts note that Türkiye's rise is driven not only by the expansion of its higher education system but also by its geopolitical position and the secure environment it offers during times of global uncertainty. Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Türkiye has increasingly come to be seen as a "safe harbor" for students amid growing regional tensions.

## SAFE COUNTRIES GAIN PROMINENCE

The Russia-Ukraine war, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, conflicts across the Middle East, social unrest in Iran, and increasingly restrictive immigration policies in Western countries are directly influencing young people's educational plans.

In particular, lengthy visa procedures, high living costs, and growing security concerns in the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe are prompting families to consider alternative destinations. Study-abroad consultants report that the first question parents now ask is no longer, "How good is the university?" but rather, "Will my child be safe there?"

Experts emphasize that students' priorities have shifted significantly in recent years. Families, especially from

Muslim-majority countries, increasingly prefer destinations that are geographically closer, culturally familiar, and socially secure.

Türkiye offers a unique combination of advantages: geographic proximity, cultural affinity, ease of transportation, relatively affordable living costs, and accessible visa procedures. These factors make the country a particularly attractive option for students from the region.

## GROWING INTEREST FROM IRANIAN STUDENTS

Iranian students constitute a significant portion of those choosing Türkiye for higher education. According to OECD data, more than 110,000 Iranian students are studying abroad, and Türkiye ranks among the most popular destinations due to its cultural similarities and ease of access.

YÖK data indicates that the number of Iranian students in Türkiye has exceeded 35,000. Experts suggest that economic challenges, youth unemployment, social pressures, and concerns about the future in Iran continue to fuel this trend.

Recent tightening of security measures on university campuses, the closure of some student dormitories, and growing economic uncertainty have encouraged many young Iranians to seek educational opportunities abroad. Lengthy visa procedures in Europe and

the United States have further increased Türkiye's appeal as an accessible alternative.

According to education consultants, Iranian students find not only academic opportunities in Türkiye but also a more open and internationally connected social environment. International student communities in cities such as İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Eskişehir, and Konya help newcomers integrate more easily.

## THE IMPACT OF WESTERN VISA BARRIERS

The stricter visa policies adopted by the United States and Canada in recent years have significantly affected international student mobility. Students now face challenges not only in gaining admission but also in successfully completing the visa process.

Rising rejection rates and prolonged periods of uncertainty for applicants from certain countries are prompting families to explore alternative destinations. Experts note that Türkiye stands out by offering a more predictable and accessible system.

Recent restrictions on international students' work rights in countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada have also influenced decision-making. Increasing rental prices and living expenses continue to reshape students' preferences. In contrast, tuition fees at Turkish

public universities remain relatively affordable, while scholarship opportunities offered by foundation universities further enhance Türkiye's attractiveness to international students.

## CENTRAL ASIA'S SHIFTING PREFERENCES

The Russia-Ukraine war has also transformed educational preferences among students from Central Asia. Many students who previously chose Russia are now turning to Türkiye. Experts attribute this shift to security concerns, economic sanctions, and broader regional uncertainty resulting from the conflict.

Türkiye has gained a significant advantage thanks to its cultural ties and academic capacity. Linguistic similarities also play an important role for students from the Turkic republics. Interest is particularly strong in fields such as engineering, health sciences, international relations, and software development.

## CAMPUSES ARE BECOMING MORE GLOBAL

Turkish universities are adapting to growing international student mobility through a range of initiatives. The number of English-medium programs continues to increase, while international student offices are being strengthened across campuses. Multinational social

environments are emerging, bringing together students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Many universities now compete not only through academic performance but also through campus life, technological infrastructure, research centers, and career opportunities. Technoparks, entrepreneurship centers, and international exchange programs are further enhancing their appeal.

Experts stress that international students should not be viewed solely through the lens of economic contribution. Students who come to Türkiye for education often establish long-term cultural and economic ties between their home countries and Türkiye.

## A NEW ERA IN GLOBAL EDUCATION

According to experts, the world is moving toward a new international education order. In this emerging landscape, university rankings alone will no longer determine student choices. Factors such as public safety, social stability, and a country's capacity to manage crises will become increasingly influential.

Through the steps it has taken in recent years, Türkiye has positioned itself as a significant player in this new equation. With its young population, strong higher education infrastructure, multicultural environment, and strategic location, the country is expected to attract even more international students in the years ahead.

## FROM GAZA TO CENTRAL ASIA: BUILDING AN EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE

Türkiye's educational diplomacy has become increasingly visible in recent years, particularly in regions affected by conflict and crisis. Following the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, many universities opened special quotas for Palestinian students. Through state-supported scholarship programs, hundreds of young people have gained the opportunity to pursue their education in Türkiye.

Similarly, for students from many countries affected by war and instability, Türkiye has emerged as a safe and reliable education destination.

Experts argue that this approach creates not only academic benefits but also diplomatic and cultural influence. Study-abroad consultants emphasize that international students should not be regarded merely as temporary guests but as long-term ambassadors of cultural connection. With the right strategies in place, experts believe that Türkiye has the potential to become one of the world's leading international education centers within the next decade.



# TEKNOSEL 2026, Anatolia's largest tech festival, concludes

Selçuklu  
TEKNOSEL 2026  
Technology Festival  
concludes with an  
awards ceremony  
where the genius  
of the future was  
rewarded

**T**EKNOSEL 2026 Technology Festival organized by Selçuklu Municipality, Selçuklu Directorate of National Education, KOP Regional Development Directorate and Innopark concluded with an awards ceremony for students. The first three-day stage of the festival was held at Selçuklu Municipality International Sports Hall with robotics competitions and the second stage was held at Selçuklu Congress Center where technology contests and activities catering to people of all ages were organized. The youth competed in technology during the six-day festival which also hosted visitors at the venue of activities. Contestants who won two stages were awarded on the last day of the festival.

This is the third edition of the festival where 120 teams competed in Free and Special Categories, 20 finalists took part in Gaza-themed AI film competition and 355 teams participated in mBlock coding competition and 567 teams competed across seven categories in the robot competitions.

## AN INSPIRATION FOR INNOVATION AND NEW PROJECTS

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says they were grateful to all contributors to TEKNOSEL 2026 where the youth were awarded. "We delivered awards for the first-place, second-place, third place, jury special awards and honorable mentions. For us, every team participating the festival ranked first. Being here, joining the competition, introducing authentic projects based on innovative ideas is the most important part. I congratulate all teams and students. This is just a beginning. It is important that they presented themselves, introduced, implemented their projects and demonstrated



them to our guests and jury and showcased innovative products. We hope the innovative ideas demonstrated here will serve as a source of inspiration for future for new ideas, new projects. As long as teams, students and schools are interested, we will

develop our TEKNOSEL Festival further and continue it in the coming years in a more comprehensive manner," he said.

The awards ceremony was attended by Meram District Governor and Selçuklu acting governor Bayram Yılmaz, KOP Re-

gional Development Directorate chairman Murat Karakoyunlu, Konya Provincial Gendarmerie Commander Cemil Lütfi Özkul, Konya Chamber of Industry chairman Mustafa Büyükeğen, Innopark General Manager Ali Kahraman, Selçuk University

Faculty of Technology Dean Humar Kahramanlı Örnek, Selçuklu Belediyespor Club President Mustafa Yavuz Tezcan, Selçuklu Municipal Assembly Member Ayşe Lütfiye Poçanoğlu, teachers, students and their families.



## SELÇUKLU YOUTH CENTER MOVES TO THE NEW VENUE

Selçuklu Municipality which prioritizes the youth in every project, relocated Selçuklu Youth Center in the Bosna Hersek neighborhood to its location. The center is a popular hangout among the university students

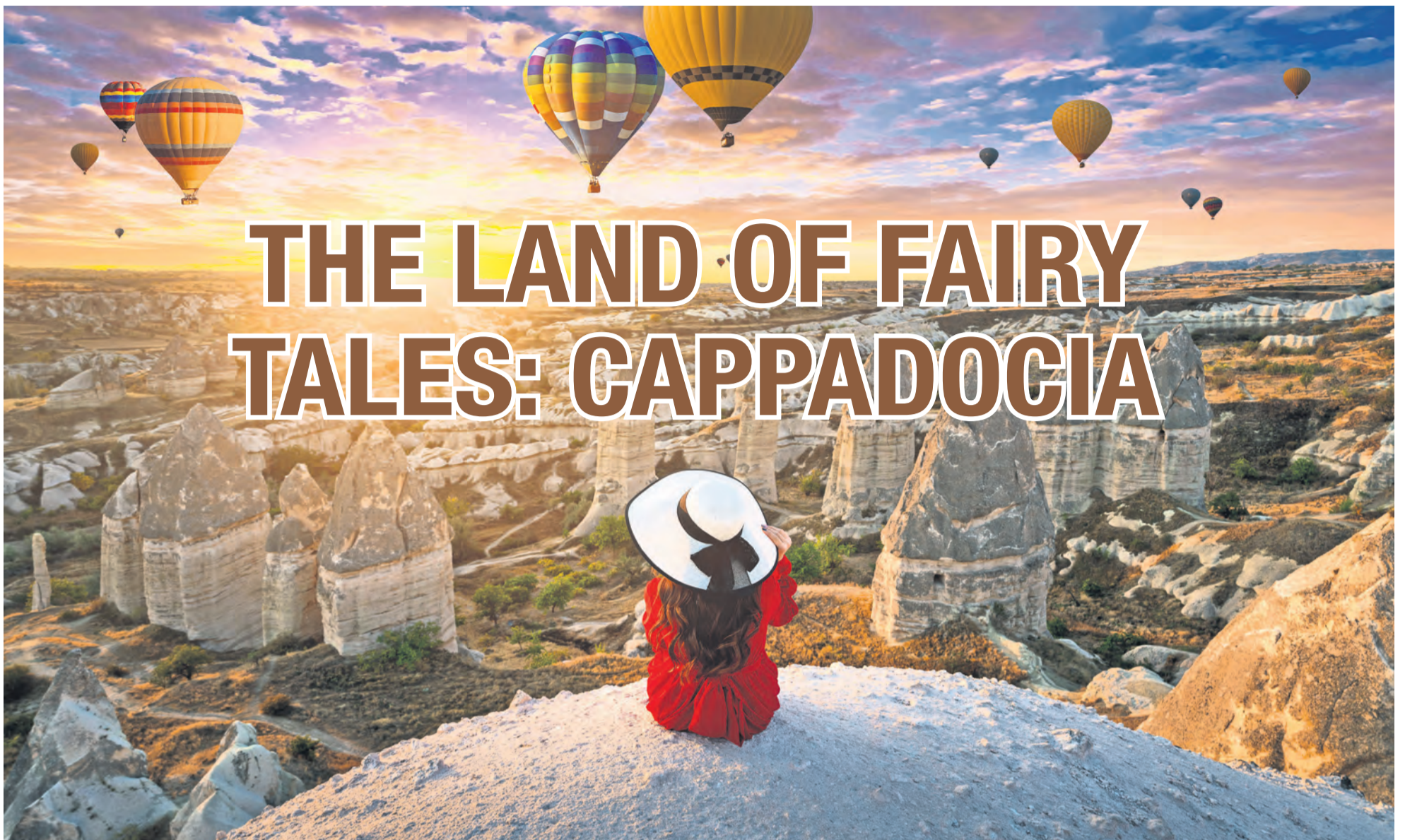


**S**elçuklu Youth Center, a project which prioritizes the youth, serves to the youth in its new venue. The center owned by Selçuklu Municipality provided new visions for university students and is set to be a popular spot again in its new location. The center houses studying spaces, social spaces, reading venues and entertainment venues, offering the students a comfortable place. An average of 600 students visits the center daily. In its new location, the center addresses all the needs of the youth. It hosts library, Wi-Fi connection, canteen, an 80-seat study hall, a 100-seat conference hall, a meeting hall and a recreational space.

### FAVORED BY THE YOUTH IN ITS NEW LOCATION

Selçuklu Mayor Ahmet Pekyatırmacı says Selçuklu Youth Center is an important venue for students' social, cultural and scientific activities. "It will remain one of the most preferred locations for students. We increased the service capacity of the center by relocating it to a spot with high population of students in Bosna Hersek neighborhood. Selçuklu Youth Assembly organizes activities, we offer social, cultural and educational programs in cooperation with youth communities at the universities and civic society organizations, we help students with career planning," the mayor said. He added that the center was beyond a mere location to study and was a place where students can feel home. "We are delighted with interest by the students. I wish it will benefit all university students," he said.





# THE LAND OF FAIRY TALES: CAPPADOCIA

**C**appadocia... A dreamlike land gracefully shimmering in its texture – extraordinary natural settings, mesmerising vistas from dusk till dawn, ancient designs carved into soft rock, colourful balloons gliding past fairy chimneys, and the allure of history guiding visitors on a journey through time.

The sublime story of this land dates back millions of years, to the eruptions of two volcanic mountains in Central Anatolia: Erciyes and Hasan. The layers of tuff and basalt across the region were shaped by wind and weather, turning the formless into the mythical fairy chimneys stretching for miles.

As the natural formations took shape, humans left their mark through migrations, invasions, and conquests, adding new chapters to Cappadocia's storied past. Today, these ancient structures invite you on a magical journey through both time and wonder. Are you ready for the extraordinary?

## PANORAMIC VIEW OF A FAIRYTALE

One of the first sights to catch your eye is the gigantic rock rising towards the sky – Uçhisar Castle. Around this imposing landmark lies one of Cappadocia's most beautiful walking routes, weaving through Güvercinlik (Pigeon) Valley.

Uçhisar began as a small village built around the castle and gradually expanded down the slopes. Some say there were once underground tunnels stretching for kilometres, connecting Uçhisar Castle to the Ihlara Valley beyond – adding even more mystery to its history.

Today, the castle is surrounded by charming shops and stalls selling carpets, marble ornaments, mirrors, and, of course, delicious dried fruits and nuts to enjoy along the way.

## THE ADDRESS FOR THE WANDERLUST

Continue your journey to Göreme, the heart of the region. Despite the crowds it attracts, this scenic town retains a calm and timeless charm. Wind and rain over millennia have sculpted the breathtaking landscape that surrounds it.

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, Göreme radiates enchantment. Its rock-carved churches and underground cities – including Derinkuyu and Kaymaklı – stand as silent witnesses to the past. The frescoes inside these sanctuaries depict scenes from the life of Christ in vivid detail. One of the most remarkable of these structures is the Dark Church at the Göreme Open-Air Museum. Dating from the late 11th to early 12th centuries, it takes its name from the tiny window in its narthex that lets in very little light. This lack of light, however, has preserved the vivid colours of its frescoes for centuries, allowing visitors to admire depictions from the Bible

Cappadocia lies in central Türkiye – a magical land visited by millions each year. With its natural beauty, rich history, and unique culture, it feels like an open-air museum that leaves visitors with unforgettable memories



that have survived the test of time..

## CONQUERING THE SCENERY FROM ABOVE

As dawn breaks, you can drift peacefully over the valleys in a hot-air balloon – one of the most iconic experiences Cappadocia offers. From above, the valleys unfold in soft, velvety layers of colour and texture.

For over 20 years, Cappadocia has been one of the world's most celebrated ballooning destinations, attracting travellers from around the globe. The balloons, which rise up to 500 metres, depart from trails around Göreme early each morning, offering a truly unforgettable perspective.

## A JEWEL BOX OF A TOWN

Heading east from Göreme brings you to Ürgüp, a town brimming with wonders. As the largest settlement in Cappadocia, Ürgüp combines history, grandeur, and modern life. Its stone mansions and cave dwellings offer a glimpse into the region's timeless spirit.

Local markets display handwoven fabrics, model fairy chimneys, and a range of traditional crafts. Not far from here lies Avanos, the cultural heart of Cappadocia, famous for



its pottery and craftsmanship.

And when the day draws to a close, there's no better place to watch the sunset than Kızılçukur (Red) Valley, near Çavuşin Village and Ortahisar. As the sun dips, the red tuff formations glow in deep crimson hues – a romantic spectacle you'll remember forever. Visitors are encouraged to begin their walk just before sunset and reach the viewing terrace in time to soak in the valley's full splendour.



## A life engraved in volcanic ash

Your next stop may not reveal its beauty at first glance, but once there, you'll be captivated. Çavuşin Village, just minutes from Göreme, is a treasure trove of ancient ruins: stone buildings and fairy chimneys leading to the village square.

Follow the paths further, and you'll find churches and monastic houses dating between the 1st and 10th centuries. If you extend your walk a little longer, you can reach the churches in Güllüdere (Rose) and Kızılçukur Valleys – though perhaps the most striking of all is the Church of Saint John the Baptist, perched near the cliffside.



## A boundless dip into the olden days

As humans in a vast universe, we sometimes feel our world has become too familiar and long for something new. Yet even amid our routines, there remain hidden gems waiting to be discovered – precious moments to hold onto.

Cappadocia is one of those rare places that lets you leave your cares behind and rediscover wonder. Given the chance, these lands will never disappoint.



# Istanbul: Where continents and centuries meet

Istanbul, Türkiye’s bustling metropolis, is a city of endless charm, where the past merges seamlessly with the present. Straddling two continents – Europe and Asia – this spectacular city has absorbed the best of both worlds. Every step reveals relics of bygone eras, making it a living museum of culture, history, and modern life

**W**ith its historic landmarks, quintessential cuisine, vibrant nightlife, art and music festivals, diverse religious heritage, labyrinthine marketplaces, and the soul-stirring Bosphorus under the watchful eye of the Maiden’s Tower, Istanbul is a traveller’s dream. This intercontinental metropolis is a melting pot of culture, where culinary feasts, art, and architecture intertwine along the awe-inspiring Bosphorus Strait.

Istanbul is full of surprises – from historical sites to emerging designers and artists. Set your own pace, and let the city envelop you in its energy.

### THE ART AND CULTURAL QUINTESSENCE OF İSTANBUL

Today, Istanbul is a renaissance of art, music, and culture. Its rich historical heritage coexists with revitalised neighbourhoods and waterfronts, welcoming a new wave of museums, design-conscious architecture, restaurants, bars, cafés, and cultural centres.

The city seamlessly combines tradition and modernity. The old city reflects the influences of many empires that ruled here; the skyline tells stories of politics, religion, and art, while fashionable neighbourhoods offer everything expected of a cosmopolitan metropolis. Admire relics older than time itself, marvel at historical sights, and don’t miss the city’s contemporary cultural heartbeat – from third-wave art galleries to innovative culinary spaces along the waterfront.

### EMBRACING WORLD FAITHS AND WORSHIP

Istanbul’s cultural diversity is reflected in its religious architecture. Churches, mosques, and synagogues coexist peacefully, highlighting the city’s cosmopolitan roots.

Historic neighbourhoods such as Balat, Galata, and Beyoğlu are home to places of worship from various faiths. In this unique part of the city, you can visit a church, a mosque, and a synagogue one after another, spending a day immersed in Istanbul’s historical and spiritual treasures.

### THE ULTIMATE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Shopping in Istanbul is an experience in itself. As Türkiye’s fashion and business capital, the city offers everything from modern malls and boulevards to the centuries-old Grand Bazaar in Fatih.

Whether you’re seeking luxury brands or bargain finds, Istanbul has options for all tastes. Treasure hunters can explore the alleys of traditional markets, while those in search of contemporary fashion will find cutting-edge boutiques throughout the city.

### CULINARY ADVENTURES IN ISTANBUL

Istanbul’s culinary scene reflects its ever-changing vibrancy. From cosy meyhanes taverns on cobblestone streets to fine-dining restaurants with majestic views of the Bosphorus, the city is a gastronomic playground.

Hip restaurants near contemporary art galleries serve Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine, blending traditional meze dishes with modern fusion techniques. Some rooftop and high-profile establishments in Beyoğlu have even earned spots in the World’s 50 Best Restaurants list.

The philosophy of “New Anatolian Cuisine” underpins Istanbul’s food culture, combining traditional ingredients, culture, and techniques with modern innovation. The city is also represented in the MICHELIN Guide, reflecting the diversity and quality of its culinary landscape.

Street food vendors, fresh fish from the Bos-



phorus, esnaf lokantası (traditional tradesmen’s restaurants), akide (Ottoman rock candy), and lokum (Turkish delight) with a cup of Turkish coffee – no matter your craving, Istanbul will satisfy it. Be sure to arrive with an empty stomach to fully enjoy what the city has to offer.

### THE PERFECT CITY ESCAPE

The Princes’ Islands, just a short ferry ride from both the European and Anatolian shores of Istanbul in the Sea of Marmara, offer a serene escape. Car-free and largely preserved in their Ottoman-era charm, these nine islands (four large, five small) are ideal for walking or cycling, with new electric buses providing easy transport around the main islands.

For those seeking green spaces closer to the city, Belgrad Forest, Emirgan Park, Aydos Forest, and Otağtepe Fatih Grove offer tranquil escapes, perfect for picnics, walks, or simply soaking up nature.





# Life outside the school

With its cultural and social diversity, Türkiye offers activities outside the school for students in a vast spectrum. Students can choose between them, from cinemas and theaters to concerts and trips to historic places

CEYDA KARAASLAN

Being a university student is definitely not about being confined to studies, studying for midterm and final exams. Türkiye's rich cultural and social diversity means a wide range of activities outside the school for students. Here are some options compiled in "Study in Turkey" website of Board of Higher Education (YÖK):

**-STUDENT ACTIVITIES:** Every university houses student clubs that brings together students sharing a common interest and organizes relevant events. It can be an astronomy club coming together to watch solar eclipse or photographers' club where students can gather and tour the city in pursuit of capturing perfect photos. You can also join an archaeology club which organizes trips to archaeological excavation sites or a jazz club to showcase your musical skills. Elsewhere, a gastronomy club helps us to discover lesser known dishes of Türkiye. If you are a film enthusiast, you can join a club to explore classic films of world or Turkish cinema or contemporary movies. Just be passionate and sign up.

**-CINEMA:** The number of cinema halls in Türkiye is increasing every day. Some of the cinemas are located in the city centre, while others are in the shopping malls. Cinemas mostly shows popular movies and almost every film is shown almost simultaneously in Türkiye and the world. Other than latest popular films, there are also relatively small halls where films outside mainstream cinema are shown. Movies are usually displayed in original language and with Turkish subtitles.

Various cities in Türkiye host major film festivals throughout the year. Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Istanbul Film Festival, Adana Golden Boll Film Festival, Ankara Film Festival, , Mobile Film Festival and Malatya International Film Festival are among prominent ones. In these festivals, films are shown in their



original language and are mostly available in both Turkish and English subtitles.

Plays (theater) can be divided into three as state theaters, municipal theaters and plays performed by private theaters. In these performances, plays of both Turkish and World writers meet with the audience. Tickets for popular performances are sold weeks ago. Therefore, make your plans early. Theatrical plays are staged in Turkish.

For both cinema and theater, students have the right to receive discounted tickets. Show your student ID at the box office.

## DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS

**-THEATER:** Theater plays can be divided into three as ones performed at state theaters, municipality theaters and private theaters. These theaters offer plays both by Turkish playwrights and playwrights from other countries. Popular plays are often fully booked weeks ahead. Therefore,



plan ahead. Plays are staged in Turkish.

Students are entitled to discounted tickets both for plays and films. Just show your student ID at the box office.

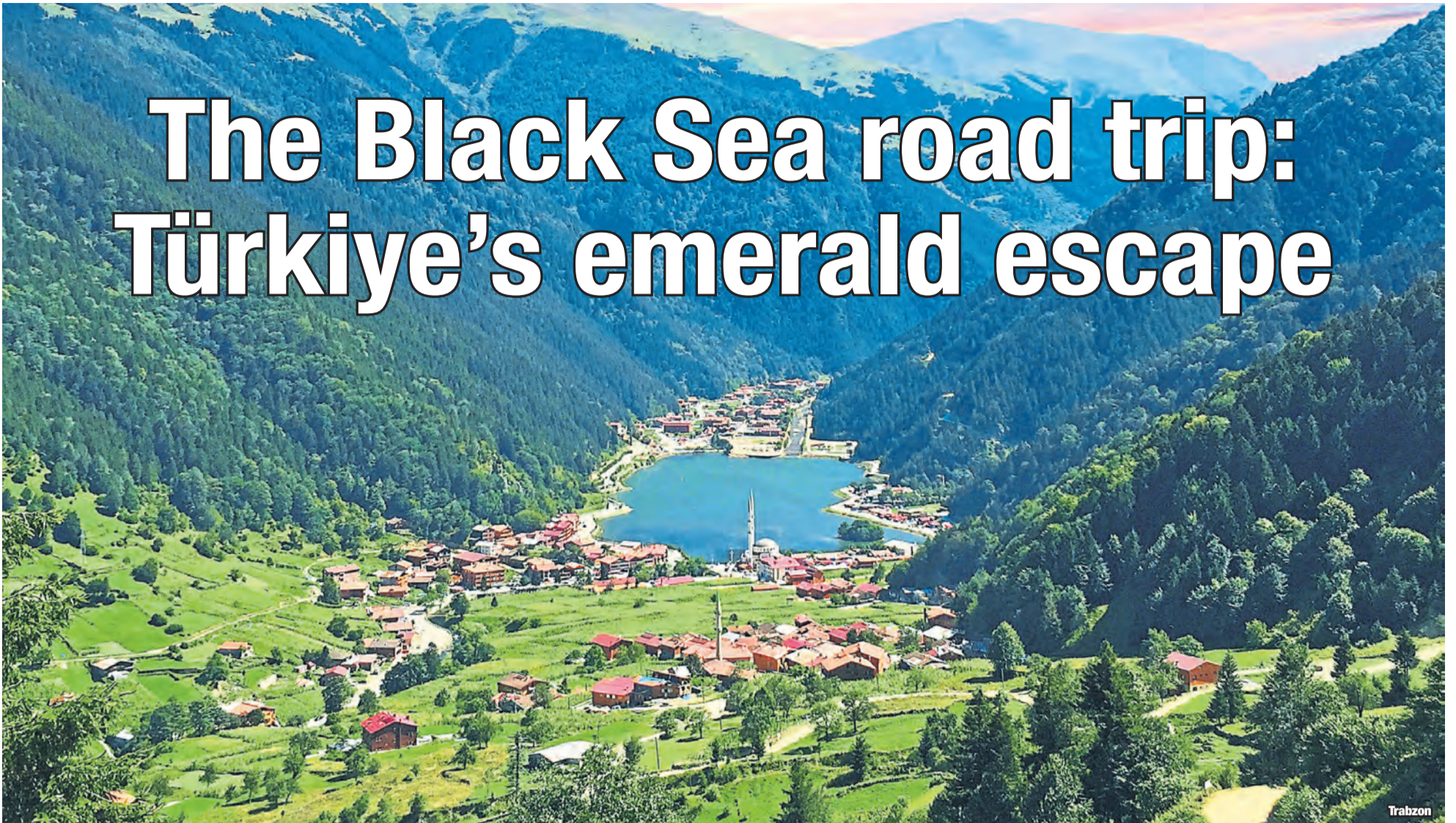
**-CONCERTS:** If listening to live music is indispensable for you, you'll find many places where you can listen local groups in the city where your university is located or find venues where artists popular in Türkiye perform. From pop music to classical Turkish music, from Turkish folk music to hiphop, many different kinds of musical experiences are waiting for you.

**-MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SITES:** Türkiye, which hosted countless civilizations and empires throughout its history has numerous museums and historical sites. In addition to museums and historical sites in the city you study at, Türkiye is home to Ephesus, Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, Göbeklitepe, Pamukkale, Topkapı Palace and similar landmarks you should definitely visit, landmarks of major importance for the mankind. You can find a full list of places you can visit on this website: <https://www.muze.gov.tr/en/museums>

**-SPORTS:** Türkiye is passionate about sports. Most popular sports are football, basketball and volleyball. Their matches in national leagues are highly competitive and fun to watch. Tickets are mostly sold online. If you are actively involved in sports, you can use sports venues at your university, which are offered for free or with a small fee. You can also participate in tournaments in campus or join the school teams.

**-SHOPPING MALLS:** You can find a major shopping mall in almost every city in Türkiye. The malls meet all your shopping needs and host entertainment centers as well. Shopping malls are crowded particularly on the weekends and prior to festive holidays.

# The Black Sea road trip: Türkiye's emerald escape



Trabzon

Türkiye's Black Sea coast feels like a world apart – a chain of villages strung along a narrow ribbon of land, hemmed in by the sea on one side and lush, rolling mountains on the other. Though often overlooked by foreign visitors, the region offers a beautiful glimpse of Türkiye's natural beauty and rich local life, with plenty to see and do

If you want to immerse yourself in an environment of unparalleled natural beauty and enjoy a long, scenic drive along the open road, Türkiye's Black Sea region may be exactly what you're looking for. With its lush landscapes, centuries-old culture, and irresistible cuisine, this northern coastline offers travellers the chance to uncover some of Türkiye's most enchanting hidden gems.

## SINOP

The journey begins in Sinop, a brilliant first stop on your Black Sea adventure. One of Türkiye's oldest settlements, Sinop has been home to ancient Greeks, Romans, and Turks throughout its long history. The city's humid, subtropical climate allows a rich variety of plant species to thrive, creating a magnificent landscape that transforms beautifully with each season.

A must-see is the Sinop Fortress Prison, known as the "Anatolian Alcatraz." Originally dating back to the 7th century BCE, it was later converted into a prison by the Ottomans. Boyabat Castle, another striking landmark, dates to the Late Roman period but resembles an Ottoman fortress. Perched on a hilltop, it offers panoramic views across the city. Food lovers should not leave without tasting Sinop mantı – a regional twist on Türkiye's famous dumplings. Unlike the classic version served entirely with yoghurt and sauce, Sinop's mantı is served half with yoghurt (with or without garlic) and half with crushed walnuts, offering a unique blend of flavours.

## GİRESUN

Giresun welcomes visitors with sweeping

mountain vistas, lush plateaus, and cascading waterfalls. The nearby Giresun Island (Giresun Adası) – one of the largest in the Black Sea – is believed to have once been a place of worship for the legendary Amazon warriors. Today, it mesmerises visitors with its serene natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

On your road trip, make sure to visit Kuzalan Waterfalls, and the Kümbet and Kulakkaya Plateaus, where you can breathe in the crisp mountain air and enjoy the pastoral scenery. And of course, don't leave without trying Giresun's world-famous hazelnuts, celebrated for their superior flavour.

## TRABZON

A jewel of the Black Sea coast, Trabzon offers a perfect blend of nature, history, and gastronomy. Begin with Altındere National Park, one of the region's most breathtaking landscapes. Nestled within the valley lies the awe-inspiring Sümela Monastery, an Orthodox sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary and built dramatically into the cliff face. Cloaked in mist and surrounded by forests, it feels as though you've stepped into a dream.

Before leaving Trabzon, stop by Uzungöl, a stunning mountain lake surrounded by wooden chalets and green slopes. It's the perfect place to enjoy fresh seafood or the famous Trabzon bread while taking in the view.

If you're a food enthusiast, a visit to Akçaabat is a must to try its renowned Akçaabat köfte (meatballs) – a delicious local speciality. Wherever you go in Trabzon, the region's rich cuisine

will leave a lasting impression.

## RİZE

Known as Türkiye's tea capital, Rize enchants every visitor with its misty mountains and endless tea plantations. Visit the tea factory, established in 1947, to learn about Türkiye's tea-growing heritage and sample freshly brewed tea right at the source.

In Çamlıhemşin, don't miss the Şenyuva Bridge, an elegant Ottoman stone bridge built in 1696 that gracefully arches over the Fırtına River. Nearby lies the Palovit Waterfall, where water plunges 15 metres into a deep gorge – creating a mesmerising natural spectacle.

End your Rize visit in the legendary Ayder Highlands, famous for their alpine-like meadows, evergreen forests, and thermal springs. Popular among hikers and photographers, Ayder offers one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of Türkiye.

## ARTVİN

For a magical finale to your Black Sea road trip, head to Artvin, a region of untouched wilderness and mountain charm. The Borçka Karagöl National Park is an unmissable highlight, home to the tranquil Borçka and Şavşat Lakes, whose reflections create an almost mystical atmosphere.

While in Artvin, indulge in local flavours – try kuymak, a warm, buttery dish made with melted Kolot cheese, or enjoy freshly caught fish alongside a glass of tea picked from the nearby hillsides. It's the perfect ending to a journey through Türkiye's most verdant and soul-soothing region.



Giresun



Rize



Sinop



Artvin

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